



## TALIBAN TRANSFORMATION

Afghanistan officials concerned by changing makeup of militant forces

By SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN ■ *The Washington Post*

**FAIZABAD, Afghanistan** — The Taliban in this northern province allows girls to attend school. It doesn't execute soldiers or police. Its fighters are not Pashtun, the main ethnic group that bred and fueled the insurgency. Some members are even former mujahedeen, or freedom fighters, who once despised the Taliban and fought against its uprising.

"The Taliban here are against the ideology of the Taliban in the south," explained Maizuddin Ahmed, 20, a former Taliban member who reflects the local faction's atypical nature: He has a Facebook page, tweets regularly and wears a beanie emblazoned with the letters "NY." "They don't beat head soldiers."

As the United States reshapes its military footprint in Afghanistan, the Taliban is transforming into a patchwork of forces with often conflicting ideals and motivations, looking less like the ultra-religious movement it started out as in the mid-1990s. The fragmentation may suggest the movement is weakening, but it is forcing Afghanistan's government to confront an insurgency that is becoming increasingly diverse, scattered — and more lethal.

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**Gen. Nazir Mohammed Nayazee, in vehicle, is a former mujahedeen commander and now mayor of Faizabad, Afghanistan, not far from a Taliban command center. "We never expected the Taliban to rise up here," he said.**

KIANA HAYER/The Washington Post

## Service academies could lead way in college sex-assault prevention

By NICK ANDERSON  
*The Washington Post*

**ANNAPOLIS, Md.** — Colleges scrambling to develop lessons in sexual-assault prevention could glean ideas from what might be considered an unlikely source: The nation's military service academies.

Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy and cadets at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy are required to undergo four years of prevention training, far more than the norm on civilian campuses.

These undergraduates are hardly typical. The future military

officers must follow orders at schools that prize discipline. But the curriculum they absorb — on "bystander intervention," mutual consent for sexual contact and tricky scenarios involving alcohol, among other topics — is familiar to those who track the growing national campaign against campus sexual violence.

On Wednesday, the Defense Department published a report on sexual harassment and violence at the academies, and the results underscored the need for prevention training. It found, through anonymous surveys, that an estimated 8 percent of female students and 1 percent of male

students at the academies experienced unwanted sexual contact in the 2013-14 school year. That suggested a decline in the prevalence of sexual assault, the department said, because the rates two years earlier were 12 percent for women and 2 percent for men.

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"It seriously damaged my child's psychology."**

—Pastor Ahmet Guvenler, head of the Protestant Church in Diyarbakir, Turkey. His 17-year-old daughter is being forced to take classes focused on Islam

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## MILITARY

# Senate confirms Carter to lead DOD

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Ashton Carter cleared the final hurdle to becoming the next secretary of defense Thursday, when the Senate approved his nomination by President Barack Obama by an overwhelming vote of 93-5.

A simple majority is needed to confirm a Cabinet secretary nominee.

The lawmakers voting against Carter were: Sens. Roy Blunt, R-Mo.; John Boozman, R-Ark.; Mike Crapo, R-Idaho; Mark Kirk, R-Ill.; and James Risch, R-Idaho. Carter's confirmation seemed to be a foregone conclusion heading into the roll call. He has been widely praised by both Republicans and Democrats. Following a smooth confirmation hearing last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 25-0 to send his nomination to the Senate floor.

His trouble-free confirmation process stands in sharp contrast to that of outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, who saw his nomination filibustered two years ago after a poor confirmation hearing performance. The former Army sergeant and Republican senator had previously made controversial remarks about Israel and other issues, which drew fire from lawmakers. Some even suggested that he had cozy ties with America's adversaries.

When the final up or down vote took place in the Democrat-controlled Senate, Hagel made it through 58-41, the narrowest margin of approval of any defense secretary in history. Only four Republicans voted to confirm Hagel.

With the GOP now in control of the legislative body, Republicans were in a position to sink Carter had they so chosen.

Carter's margin of approval is not unprecedented for defense secretary nominees. Leon Panetta, Hagel's predecessor, won unanimous approval. Robert Gates, Obama's first secretary of defense and a holdover from the previous administration, was confirmed 95-2 after he was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2006.

Some outside observers are not thrilled about Carter taking over



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Ashton Carter attends a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday as committee members considered his nomination to become the next secretary of defense, replacing Chuck Hagel. The Senate approved his nomination Thursday.

the Pentagon. The Project on Government Oversight, a watchdog group, directed his ties to the defense industry.

"While working in the private sector, he has held plum positions on government advisory boards that called for reforms with potential ramifications for his defense industry clients and other companies that receive [Department of Defense] dollars," Michael Smallberg, a POGO investigator, wrote on the organization's blog last month. "Carter's nomination serves to illustrate how the government allows members of the policy establishment to straddle both sides, and how it's become a fixture of the military-industrial-congressional complex."

Unlike many of his defense secretary predecessors, who came from political backgrounds, Carter is a technocrat and policy wonk with a long track record at the Pentagon.

He was deputy secretary of defense from October 2011 to

December 2013. Before that, he oversaw the buying of the military's newest weapons systems and technologies, as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. During the Clinton administration, he was assistant secretary of defense for international security policy.

Unlike Hagel, who saw extensive combat in Vietnam as an infantryman and received two Purple Hearts, Carter has never served in uniform.

When Obama announced Carter's nomination, he praised him as someone who has shown a commitment to the well-being of the troops.

"When our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan were struggling to defend against roadside bombs," Obama said, "he moved heaven and earth to rush them new body armor and vehicles. It's no exaggeration to say that there are countless Americans who are alive today in part because of Ash's efforts."

Carter was tapped to be the next Pentagon chief in December, weeks after Hagel was pressured to resign by a White House that wanted someone else to tackle thorny foreign policy problems, most notably the war against the Islamic State group in the Middle East.

"I accepted [the nomination] because of the seriousness of the strategic challenges we face, but also the bright opportunities that exist for America if we can come together to grab hold of them," Carter said at the White House on Dec. 5 after Obama announced that he had been chosen.

"And I accepted the offer because of the deep respect and abiding love that [my wife] Stephanie and I have for our men and women in uniform."

Carter will likely take over early next week, but no official start date has yet been announced.

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STARS AND STRIPES

## MILITARY

# Hormone treatment OK'd for Chelsea Manning

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Hormone treatment for gender reassignment has been approved for Chelsea Manning, the former intelligence analyst convicted of espionage for sending classified documents to the WikiLeaks website.

Defense Department officials said Thursday that the hormone therapy was approved Feb. 5 by Col. Erica Nelson, commandant of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where Manning is serving a 35-year sentence.

The treatment would enable the Army private formerly known

as Bradley Manning to make the transition to a woman. Manning changed her legal name in April 2014.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The memo approving Manning's hormone treatment was first reported by USA Today. Calls to military officials at Fort Leavenworth weren't immediately returned.

The decision came after a lawsuit was filed in September in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. It alleged Manning, 26, was at a high risk of self-castration and suicide unless she received more focused treatment for gender dysphoria, the sense

of not being the gender a person physically appears to be.

The Army was providing some treatment but not enough, according to the lawsuit, including psychotherapy from a mental health specialist who lacked the qualifications to treat gender dysphoria. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and many state and local corrections agencies administer hormone therapy to prisoners with gender dysphoria, but Manning is the first transgender military prisoner to request such treatment.

Chase Strangio, an attorney with the ACLU and counsel for Manning in her lawsuit, called the decision an important first step in Manning's treatment regimen.

"But the delay in treatment came with a significant cost to Chelsea and her mental health and we are hopeful that the government continues to meet Chelsea's medical needs as is its obligation under the Constitution so that those harms may be mitigated," Strangio said in a statement.

The former intelligence analyst was convicted in August 2013 of espionage and other offenses for sending more than 700,000 classified documents to WikiLeaks while working in Iraq.

Transgender people are not allowed to serve in the U.S. military, but Manning can't be discharged from the service while serving her prison sentence.



PROVIDED BY THE U.S. ARMY/AP

Pfc. Chelsea Manning poses for a photo wearing a wig and lipstick.



CHRISTOPHER O'QUIN, U.S. MARINE CORPS/AP

Marines land an amphibious assault vehicle during a 2013 exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif. A fire-suppression system failure occurred inside an amphibious assault vehicle Thursday at Twentynine Palms, sending 22 Marines to the base hospital.

## 22 Marines exposed to fire retardant in Calif. accident

*The Associated Press*

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Nearly two dozen Marines were treated for exposure to a fire retardant gas Thursday after an extinguishing system accidentally went off in an assault vehicle during a training exercise, but there were no serious injuries, officials said.

An equipment malfunction caused the fire-suppression system to go off inside a tank-like amphibious assault vehicle during an afternoon exercise at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, base spokesman Dave Marks said.

There was no fire or explosion but 22 Marines were exposed to

halon, Marks said.

All of them were taken to the base hospital. Three were kept overnight for observation and the rest were released to resume training, Marks said.

Halon gas is widely used in fire extinguisher systems because it is relatively nontoxic and leaves no residue, but it can cause breathing problems at high concentrations. The U.S. banned new production of halon in the 1990s because it can deplete ozone in the atmosphere, but its use is still allowed.

The Marines were from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based in Hawaii and were participating in an integrated training exercise at the Southern California base, according to the

Marine Corps.

They were inside an armored vehicle that was used to ferry Marines from ships to shore.

Twentynine Palms, 130 miles east of Los Angeles, is the largest Marine training base in the world. Thousands of Marines take part in live-fire drills in rugged terrain deep in the Mojave desert.

"Ninety percent of the Marines will cycle through here for their combined-arms training," Marks said.

In January, two Marine pilots, Capt. Elizabeth Kealey and 1st Lt. Adam Satterfield, were killed when their helicopter crashed during a training exercise at the base. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

## Odierno: Sequestration would force manpower cuts across entire Army

By WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The Pacific rebalance strategy has increased the Army's manpower in the region by 40 percent, but it's "inevitable" that the number of soldiers based in Hawaii will be cut if mandatory spending caps are left in place the next couple years, the Army's chief of staff said Thursday.

The Army is continuing to analyze various scenarios for troop cutbacks should sequestration remain in place. Gen. Ray Odierno told reporters while standing beside two Army cargo ships docked in this Navy port.

After arriving from Alaska, Odierno toured several Army bases on Oahu, speaking with commanders, soldiers and family members. It was his third trip to the state since becoming chief in 2011.

"If [sequestration] continues, we're going to have to reduce the size of the Army further," he said. "It would be across the entire Army, and just about every installation in every state would be affected."

Asked specifically about troop levels in Hawaii, Odierno said, "I think it's inevitable that you'll probably lose some number but it could be very small. But we don't know yet."

"Here's what I would say: Our defense strategy is to rebalance toward the Pacific so we do take that into consideration as we make our decision. We understand that this is a very important part of our defense strategy, and that will be part of the decision-making as we move forward."

The Army is considering cutting its roughly half-million-strong active-duty roster to 450,000, if sequestration caps remain in place, to 420,000.

Retirees, who he and the other service chiefs told a Senate

committee earlier last month, Odierno said sequestration is going to reduce the Army's capability, capacity and modernization.

"I think what you're seeing is an early-and-often refrain from [the service chiefs] about how bad things will be," said Ryan Crotty, director for defense budget analysis at the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Because this is the year they see as the crucial one to make sure they're not stuck in another short-term, \$10-billion-ere, \$20-billion-there, small fix. They want to be back on the path to being whole again, which they see as having to start now."

Odierno said Thursday that Hawaii's soldiers are a linchpin in maintaining capability in the Pacific.

"They're important because the distance in the Pacific is daunting," he said. "The soldiers here in Hawaii really significantly reduce that distance. Having capability here is essential to our success in the future."

"The decision we're going to have to make is how much do we need here in order to continue forward. I will tell you that we see it as a critical part of our strategy. We're going to have to determine what that right size is if we continue down the road of sequestration, and that decision could be made over several years."

In addition to the 40 percent manpower increase in the Pacific, the Army also has increased its spending for operational missions in the region by about 20 percent, he said.

"What I have to make sure we do is not let other problems around the world pull capability from here for short periods of time," he said. "We have been able to do that so far, over the past couple years, and my intent is to try to sustain that."

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## MILITARY

## Assault: Naval Academy head says preventing sexual violence a top priority

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Fifty-three cadets and midshipmen formally reported sexual assaults in 2013-2014 related to incidents that occurred during their military service, the department said, a total unchanged from the previous year. In all, there are about 13,000 students at the three academies.

The academies, which did not admit women until the 1970s, have long had a reputation as a difficult environment for female students. The department's report said that 48 percent of women in the academies experienced some form of perceived sexual harassment in 2013-2014, down from 51 percent two years earlier. The share of women who perceived sexual harassment, the report said, dropped significantly at the academy in Annapolis but rose at the academies in West Point, N.Y., and Colorado Springs, Colo.

Vice Adm. Walter "Ted" Carter Jr., who became the Naval Academy's superintendent in July, said sexual-assault prevention is a top priority. "The entire staff, on this topic, they know that they have my ear," he said. "I don't tell anybody that we've got this figured out. Not by a long shot. This has got to be continually worked at."

The academy in Annapolis was rocked in 2013 when a female midshipman alleged that she had been raped the year before by three academy football players at an off-campus party. Charges against two of the men were dropped, and the third was acquitted last year in a court-martial. The case drew wide notice at a time when the entire military was coming under congressional scrutiny for lapses in its handling of sexual assault.

## 'A number of years ahead'

Carter contends that the Naval Academy's lengthy experience with prevention training — especially a peer education program that began in fall 2007 — puts it in the vanguard among residential colleges. "We're a number of years ahead of where some of them are," he said.

Colleges nationwide are ramping up efforts to teach students how to determine what means yes in a sexual encounter and what doesn't, and how to intervene when they spot a situation at a party that could be a prelude to sexual assault. Often these programs are geared toward freshmen, who are deemed most vulnerable. But many experts say that's not enough, that such lessons need to be repeated and broadened over a longer period of time.

"The best-case scenario is that all of these types of programs are implemented to all students, at all levels, throughout their college education," said Denise Labertew, of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

The federal government is a driving force in the prevention movement. President Barack Obama has promoted the issue repeatedly. The Education Department is investigating 96 colleges and universities over their handling of sexual-violence complaints. And federal regulations issued last year will require colleges to provide students with ongoing prevention and awareness programs related to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

"The smart schools will respond," said Lisa Maatz, vice president of government relations for the American Association of University Women. "There's a great need



PHOTOS BY MARY F. CALVERT/For The Washington Post

Naval Academy midshipmen take part in a sexual-assault response and prevention training. To encourage candor, male and female midshipmen were separated into different classrooms.



Midshipmen Joshua Malone, left, and Zack Kerscher lead a class in exploring gender stereotypes and what defines "men of character" at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

for schools to be upping their game."

Last month, Dartmouth College said it will develop a "comprehensive and mandatory" four-year education program on sexual-violence prevention. The Ivy League college said it will look at programs at the military academies, among other schools, as it designs its initiative. "Because the service academies are federal and make reports on their programs public, we can see the structure and effectiveness of a mandatory four-year curriculum," Dartmouth spokeswoman Diana Lawrence wrote in an email.

In Annapolis, the effort has a simple title — Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Education — and because this is the military, it goes by an acronym: SHAPE. Midshipmen take 14 hours of SHAPE and about 16 hours of related training spread over four years.

SHAPE delves into the characteristics of sexual assailants, social conformity, questions about consent and alcohol, the impact on survivors and other topics. What distinguishes the program is that students lead the lessons.

## Talking through the issues

One evening this month, sophomores — called "youngsters" at the academy — gathered at Sampson Hall to discuss gender socialization and stereotypes. To encourage candor, men and women were separated into different classrooms.

The Washington Post observed a session with about three dozen youngsters on the condition that they not be identified. Talk flowed freely and frankly as the students weighed the corrosive effects of various slurs and sexually offensive words.

Asked for terms that might signify a "stereotypical man," the youngsters cited "alpha," "insensitive," "arrogant" and "thinks with his penis." Asked to describe a "man of character," they cited "respectful," "courageous," "selfless" and "resilient."

The point of the lesson was to push their thinking away from the stereotype and toward the ideal.

Spirited debate broke out after the sophomores watched a video that said the "three most destructive words" a boy hears when growing up are "be a man."

"That doesn't make any sense," one midshipman objected. "If you have a problem, you need to deal with it and fix it. You don't sit around and cry about it."

Another agreed: "I think of it as saying, like, stand up for yourself, be able to support your own decisions, and not always have to look to others to make a decision for yourself."

But a third pointed out: "When someone says, 'Be a man,' the alternative to not being a man is kind of being a female, being a woman." He said that implies women — including their own female classmates at the academy — are not as strong as men. "That's a lot of the root causes of all these things," he said. "That's wrong."

"That was awesome. That was fantastic. Great point," said Joshua Malone, 21, a fourth-year midshipman from New York. He was one of two peer educators leading the session.

The other was Zack Kerscher, 22, a fourth-year midshipman from Ohio. Kerscher was drawn into a dialogue with a sophomore who wondered aloud why it would be offensive to say to someone "don't be gay" when all he meant was "stop being dumb."

Kerscher said the future officers must be vigilant in avoiding any language that demeans entire groups of people. "If we're here to better people's lives," Kerscher said, "what's the point of using language that is actually putting people down? ... It goes back to being that man of character. Isn't that who we're trying to be?"

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## MILITARY



JOHN ALTHOUSE, THE (JACKSONVILLE, N.C.) DAILY NEWS/AP

Cpl. Wassef Hassoun, left, is escorted to the courtroom at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., on Monday for the beginning of his court-martial.

## Attorneys spar at trial of alleged Marine deserter

The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The criminal case against a Marine accused of deserting his unit in Iraq a decade ago began taking shape when Navy criminal investigators assumed the worst about the Muslim corporal based on hearsay from other servicemembers, a defense attorney argued Thursday.

Prosecutors countered in their own opening statements that Cpl. Wassef Hassoun burned personal items and withdrew money before he disappeared from a base in Iraq in 2004; avoided some duties; and was unhappy he couldn't join the woman with whom he'd entered an arranged marriage.

They displayed quotes attributed to Hassoun before his disappearance: "I'll leave and go to Lebanon. I'm not kidding."

Hassoun is charged with desertion, larceny and destruction of government property. If convicted of all counts at the bench trial before a military judge, he faces a maximum of 27 years in prison.

Defense attorney Haytham Faraj acknowledged that Hassoun talked about being unhappy and wanting to leave the Marines, but he said many Marines make similar comments. He said prosecutors have no evidence that Hassoun fled his post in 2004. Prosecutors have acknowledged their case is circumstantial.

Faraj said the "rush to judgment" by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service was "worthy of a novel, a spy novel."

After Hassoun disappeared in Fallujah in 2004, the defense attorney said, suspicious comrades told investigators about comments Hassoun made about the conflict

between his native Lebanon and Israel. Soon, Faraj said, NCIS investigators were scrutinizing Hassoun's relatives, "hoping to hit a jackpot" by tying them to a terrorist group.

"What they find out in the end is it's just an American family with different names and a little browner skin," Faraj said.

Days after his 2004 disappearance, Hassoun appeared blindfolded and with a sword held above his head in an image purportedly taken by insurgents. An extremist group claimed to be holding him captive.

But Hassoun soon turned up unharmed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, saying he'd been kidnapped. Officials were suspicious, and he was returned to Camp Lejeune in 2004 while the military considered charging him.

After his return, Hassoun was allowed to visit family in Utah, but he disappeared a second time in early 2005. Hassoun traveled to Lebanon but was detained by that country's authorities after Interpol issued a bulletin related to his deserter status, Faraj said. The defense says court proceedings in Lebanon lasted until 2013, and Hassoun turned himself in to U.S. authorities after the government there lifted travel restrictions.

Faraj said Hassoun went to Lebanon because he needed to meet with his father-in-law to discuss a divorce from his wife in the U.S. The divorce never happened.

The defense conceded Hassoun's travel to Lebanon in early 2005 constituted an unauthorized absence and he has pleaded guilty to that lesser offense. Prosecutors, however, are still pursuing the more serious desertion charges.

# House bill calls for DOD to publish sex offenders' names

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department would be required to publish a database of all convicted military sex offenders under new legislation introduced Thursday by House lawmakers.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., and Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., is aimed at closing a legal loophole allowing servicemembers to self-report their convictions to law enforcement — civilians are automatically added to such registries — while also making DOD sex crime records available to communities across the country.

The lawmakers said they are concerned that those convicted in courts-martial are leaving the services and disappearing back into civilian life where their past is unknown. A recent investigation by news organization E.W. Scripps found that 13,000 cases examined were never recorded on any public registry despite a federal law that makes it a felony to ignore reporting requirements.

"When you have somebody convicted of a sexual crime, the rate of recidivism is extremely high," Coffman said. "Given the opportunity, they will reoffend."

Speier said the bill creates a DOD registry for those convicted of rape, sexual assault and other

sex-based offenses similar to the registries kept by local governments, states and law enforcement agencies across the country. The registries are designed to reduce repeat offenses by letting communities know

**'When you have somebody convicted of a sexual crime, the rate of recidivism is extremely high.'**

Rep. Mike Coffman  
R-Colo.

if a sex offender is living nearby and what crimes they committed.

Sex offenders are required to register immediately after their convictions or when they are released from prison and report to authorities where they live, work

and go to school. The bill would add the global and often transient military community to the system by requiring the DOD to perform and publish its own registry, rather than relying on other civilian authorities to distribute the information.

Speier said the DOD database would also include descriptions of each offender's crimes beyond a list of military convictions such as "conduct unbecoming" that can

obscure the nature of what crime was committed. She recounted incidents in which a servicemember had several 12-year-olds walk on his chest in high heels and touch his genitals. In another case, an airman posed as a doctor and persuaded a woman to submit to pelvic exams even after a conviction for the same acts.

Speier said Thursday that there was no projected cost for the database and new reporting.

Don Christensen, a retired Air Force prosecutor and president of the advocacy group Protect Our Defenders, also came out in support of the legislation, saying it would help solve a much bigger problem with reducing and prosecuting sexual assault in the ranks.

"That makes this all the more absurd, that when we do bring these criminals to justice, they are essentially released into the civilian world and given a clean slate," he said.

A similar registry bill was introduced in the Senate last week by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C.

That legislation calls for military sex offenders to be automatically added into the FBI's National Crime Information Center. But that database is used primarily by law enforcement and not accessible by the public.

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## WAR/MILITARY

## Taliban: Some fear Taliban have aggressive expansionist goals

## FROM FRONT PAGE

What is unfolding here in Badakhshan province offers a glimpse into these complexities — and the future of a conflict in which the U.S. combat mission is formally over. When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, this was the only province it was never able to control. Now, the insurgency is making inroads here and in other parts of the north, outside its strongholds in the south and east.

The Taliban in Badakhshan has gained strength precisely because it is different from the core insurgency. Its fighters are using their ethnic and tribal ties to gain recruits and popular support, while their knowledge of the landscape helps them outmaneuver Afghan security forces and control sources of funding.

"They are trying to make northern Afghanistan insecure," Shah Waliullah Adeb, the provincial governor, told a reporter in December. "By seizing areas in Badakhshan, they are trying to send a message that the national government is weak and inefficient and helpless."

## An unfinished conflict

America's longest war has officially ended, at least in the form that manifested itself for the past 13 years, with tens of thousands of foreign troops, high-tech weaponry and countless airstrikes. The roughly 13,000 U.S. and NATO soldiers who remain have shrunken capabilities and more restrictions, and their ranks are scheduled to grow even smaller by the end of the year.

But Afghanistan remains an unfinished conflict. In Iraq, the U.S. withdrawal in 2009 coincided with a reduction in violence. Here, the bloodshed is rising. Last year, there were more civilian and security-force deaths than in any year since the U.S.-led intervention ousted the Taliban government in 2001.

In Badakhshan, a struggle is underway to prevent the Taliban from gaining more territory in this strategic corner that borders three nations — Pakistan, China and Tajikistan — and is a gateway for the smuggling of opium to Europe. In the provincial capital, Faizabad, ringed by snow-covered mountains, lingers a sense of disbelief that the region is now as fragile as any other area of Afghanistan.

"We never expected the Taliban to take up here," said Gen. Nazir Mohammad Nayazee, the mayor of Faizabad.

Nayazee, a former top mujahideen commander, speaks with the authority of experience. In 1997, a year after he seized Kabul, the Taliban pushed northward. But it was stopped at Badakhshan's borders by Nayazee and his mujahideen



Police officers keep watch over Faizabad from a hilltop outpost on the edge of the city in northern Afghanistan.

PHOTOS BY KIANA HAYERI/The Washington Post



Shah Waliullah Adeb, left, the governor of Badakhshan province, fears that more foreign fighters could relocate to his region.

forces. Under fire from craggy mountaintops, the Taliban could not break through the narrow passes.

But in recent years, Afghan security forces have focused on fighting the militants in the south and east, leaving northern areas largely unprotected. In Badakhshan, security forces are ill-equipped and overstretched.

Today, the insurgents have injected themselves into seven districts, a quarter of the province. They number around 800 to 1,000 fighters, according to provincial officials, and their command center is a mere 40 miles east of Faizabad. They have set up a shadow government, and fighters man checkpoints in villages.

The Taliban here expresses allegiance to Mohammad Omar, the insurgency's supreme leader, and is loosely aligned with the Taliban's central command. It views the government as un-Islamic and a puppet of the West. But it otherwise shares little resemblance to its Pashtun brethren,

who launched their revolt from the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

## A local mix

The Taliban here is predominantly local, a mix of ethnic Tajiks and Uzbeks, according to provincial officials and Ahmed, the former Taliban member, who was interviewed two days after defecting. It also includes a small contingent of fighters from neighboring countries.

Many fighters, like Ahmed, were unemployed and lured by the militants' promise of salaries and food. Others are escaping the law or disputes with local officials. They also include disgruntled former mujahideen fighters who found no place within the government.

Most were not even born or were children when the Taliban was created. That includes their top commander — Qari Fasihuddin — who is believed to be 27 or 28.

And while the Taliban has im-

posed Islamic law in areas it controls, it has also allowed schooling for girls, satellite television and music — all forbidden under Taliban rule. It gets most of its financing, Ahmed said, by taxing opium farmers and trucks ferrying marble from nearby mines.

"They are not mullahs," said Nayazee, referring to religious scholars. "They are not ideological Taliban."

To be sure, the Taliban has become increasingly disjointed. Omar has not been seen in years, and some analysts suspect he is dead. Founding commanders have been killed in battle or have defected, creating power vacuums and competing factions.

## A range of divisions

A U.N. report last year said the Taliban is "experiencing a range of divisions driven primarily by differences over political strategy." Those divisions, it continued, were "amplified" by factions that had acquired control over various funding sources and were able to "behave with increasing autonomy."

Several Taliban groups have launched independent websites and social-media platforms, including some that sympathize with al-Qaida and its affiliates. Internal rivalries have led to assassinations of Taliban leaders, the U.N. report said.

In southern and eastern Afghanistan, some local Taliban commanders have banned polo vaccinations, fearing health workers were spies, even though the movement's central command has approved the campaign.

"Which faction is in control of an area is an issue we face as we attempt to expand humanitarian access," said Akhil Iyer, head of UNICEF in Afghanistan.

In Badakhshan, the insurgents admire the Islamic State group, as well as Nigeria's Boko Haram militancy, Ahmed said. But they do not agree with their ultraviolet ways, he added.

"The Taliban here are completely independent," Ahmed said. "They are not taking orders from Pakistan, Mullah Omar or Kandahar."

**'Once they get a foothold here, it will be impossible to remove them. They can use it as a base to attack other central and Asian countries.'**

Shah Waliullah Adeb  
governor of Badakhshan province,  
Afghanistan

## A walk at gunpoint

Noorulhuda, a police officer, remembers the day he was captured, his descriptions unwinding like a grainy film clip. The Taliban surrounding his outpost. The rockets raining from hilltops. The policemen dropping their weapons.

Then the walk at gunpoint, deep into the frigid mountains. Noorulhuda and his 24 kidnapped comrades had become emblems of the Afghan government's weakness.

"I thought they would kill us," said Noorulhuda, who like many Afghans uses one name, speaking three days after he was released.

If he were in southern or eastern Afghanistan, death would have been a certainty. The Taliban has killed thousands of Afghan security forces in the past year.

Instead, Noorulhuda and his comrades were held for 47 days and fed three times a day, underscoring the operational differences between the Taliban here and elsewhere.

Once, Noorulhuda recalled, some of the foreign fighters beat them with the butts of their guns, and one yelled, "We should behead you guys!"

But, he said, local fighters prevented the foreigners from abusing them again, saying that they wanted to trade the officers for comrades and relatives being held by the provincial government.

Ahmed offered another explanation: The local fighters, he said, disapproved of the beheadings carried out by some factions, viewing them as against Afghan codes, though the Taliban has long employed public executions.

"These Taliban think that the foreign hands are behind those Taliban who are executing security forces," he said.

Even tribal elders, who had relationships and ethnic ties with the Taliban, persuaded the insurgents to set them free.

But the militants issued a warning: "They told us not to work for the government again," Noorulhuda recalled.

As the Taliban presses, Adeb, the governor, worries that the insurgents' interest in his province goes beyond traditional goals of overthrowing the government.

"Once they get a foothold here, it will be impossible to remove them," Adeb said. "They can use it as a base to attack other central Asian countries."

**'These are Taliban think that the foreign hands are behind those Taliban who are executing security forces.'**

Maizuddin Ahmed  
former Taliban member



## MILITARY

# Study offers hope in preventing GI suicides

By SIG CHRISTENSON  
San Antonio Express-News

A groundbreaking Pentagon study of soldiers who were at high risk of killing themselves shows that intense behavior therapy substantially reduced suicide attempts, a development that experts called a dramatic breakthrough.

The two-year study of 152 active-duty soldiers who either had attempted suicide or were found to be at high risk of it did better when given a form of counseling called brief cognitive-behavioral therapy.

Fewer soldiers undergoing that treatment tried to commit suicide than others given a more typical form of therapy.

The study, released hours after President Barack Obama signed a bill Thursday that aims to reduce suicides among veterans, offers hope to stem a tide of self-inflicted deaths among active-duty and reserve component troops, as well as veterans, that has risen for more than a decade.

"From my perspective, this is the biggest, most important thing that has happened in suicide research in the military, certainly in the last 10 years, and maybe longer than that," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Alan Peterson, a co-investigator of the study and a professor of psychiatry at the UT Health Science Center's School of Medicine in San Antonio.

"I think the findings of this study are fantastic," said retired Army Col. Carl Castro, research director of USC's Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families who has advised Defense Department research panels on psychological health. "It is the first-ever suicide prevention intervention showing that a brief treatment protocol can significantly reduce future suicide attempts."

The military has been plagued by suicides and increasing psychological problems among troops since 9/11.

Psychiatric diagnoses skyrocketed

more than 60 percent since the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq began, and more than 4,400 troops have killed themselves during the past 11 years — almost as many as the 4,489 U.S. troops killed in the long Iraq war.

The study, funded by the Army's Military Operational Medicine Research Program, was conducted at Fort Carson, Colo. and involved Peterson, as well as researchers from Tennessee and Utah, among other locations. Researchers randomly assigned 152 soldiers into two groups, one of them receiving brief cognitive behavioral therapy and the other a more standard form of treatment.

Soldiers in both groups were mostly lower-ranking Anglo men, reflecting the Army's demographic, and also were similar in a number of other categories that ranged from psychiatric diagnoses to the use of medications. All had tried to commit suicide or had been diagnosed as being at high risk of suicide.

The risk of subsequent suicide attempt was close to 50 percent as they began their counseling.

All of the soldiers were given what the study called "treatment as usual," a less-structured form of counseling from military and civilian mental-health clinicians. But half of the soldiers also were given brief cognitive behavioral therapy, or CBT. A dozen formal, standardized outpatient psychotherapy sessions, held once every week or two weeks, reduced the risk of suicide.

Soldiers were tracked in the two years following their therapy sessions. Those given brief cognitive behavioral therapy were 60 percent less likely to attempt suicide.

Of 76 soldiers given brief CBT, eight, or 14 percent, tried to commit suicide. Of the 76 soldiers in the second group who received the more standard therapy, 18 tried to commit suicide.

One soldier in each group committed suicide after treatment.



J. SCOTT APPELWHITE/AP

President Barack Obama hugs Susan Selke while standing next to Richard Selke, who are the parents of Clay Hunt, after signing into law the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act on Thursday at the White House in Washington.

## Obama signs vets suicide prevention bill

By JIM KUHNHENN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Acknowledging the struggles of the nation's veterans, President Barack Obama on Thursday signed legislation intended to reduce a veteran suicide epidemic that is claiming lives by the day.

"If you are hurting, know this. You are not forgotten," Obama said, addressing soldiers and veterans as he prepared to affix his signature to the law.

The law requires the Pentagon and the Veterans Affairs Department to submit to independent reviews of their suicide prevention programs and to make information on suicide

prevention more easily available to veterans.

It also offers financial incentives to psychiatrists and other mental health professionals who agree to work for the VA and to assist military members as they transition from active duty to veteran status.

"Too many of our troops and veterans are still struggling," Obama said. "They are recovering from injuries; they are mourning fallen comrades; they're trying to reconnect with family and friends who can never fully understand what they went through in war theater."

"For many of them, the war goes on in the flashbacks that come rushing forward, and the nightmares that don't go away,"

Obama said.

The bill was named after Clay Hunt, a 28-year-old Marine veteran who struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hunt killed himself in 2011 in Texas.

"He suffered physical injuries that healed, and he suffered invisible wounds that stayed with him," Obama said. "By all accounts, he was selfless and he was brave."

Among those who attended the signing were Republican Sens. John McCain of Arizona, a frequent critic of Obama's military policy, and Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia, the new chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

# Bill to halt closure of Guantanamo prison advances

By MISSY RYAN AND JULIE TATE  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday took a step toward approving a measure that could derail President Barack Obama's plan for shutting the military prison at Guantanamo Bay before he leaves office.

In a 14-10 tie vote, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved a bill, sponsored by Sens. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., John McCain, R-Ariz., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Richard Burr, R-N.C., that would reinstate more restrictive standards for sending detainees at the facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to third countries.

It also would extend rules barring the movement of prisoners to the mainland United States for two years, until Obama steps down in early 2017, and would impose a two-year suspension on the trans-

fer of any detainees ever categorized by the United States as posing a high or medium risk to the United States or its allies.

While the Pentagon no longer uses such designations, all remaining detainees at Guantanamo were at one time categorized as either "high risk" or "medium risk," according to military dossiers made public by WikiLeaks.

The measures would effectively sink the administration's redoubled effort to make good on one of Obama's earliest national security promises, which has remained out of reach because of congressional opposition to freeing detainees or bringing them to the United States for trial.

Eric Schultz, the principal deputy press secretary at the White House, said Obama would veto the legislation. Since taking office, Obama has vetoed only two bills.

Ayotte said in a statement: "When the

administration transfers a Guantanamo detainee, especially those formerly assessed as a high or medium risk for re-engagement in terrorism, the onus is on the administration to explain openly to the American people what has changed — particularly when nearly 30 percent of former Guantanamo detainees are suspected or confirmed of reengaging in terrorism. It is a simple matter of transparency and honesty with the American people."

The bill also would compel the administration to provide the public more information about remaining detainees.

Secrecy continues to shroud the prison at Guantanamo Bay, which houses 122 detainees, roughly half the number held there when Obama took office in 2009. Most have never been charged with crimes.

The transfer of detainees to third countries is particularly problematic for law-

makers who fear former prisoners will resume the fight once they are set free.

Just this week, the Pentagon said that a drone strike in Afghanistan killed a former Guantanamo prisoner who was believed to have been recruiting militants for the Islamic State.

But officials have accelerated steps in recent months to send detainees to allied nations. Since the beginning of 2014, 33 detainees have been transferred to third countries. More than 50 others are cleared for transfer.

The flurry of transfers ended a virtual halt to such activity in 2011 and 2013, and resulted from lawmakers' decision to relax rules that required the secretary of defense to provide strong assurances about the security risks posed by the detainees. Those rules would be tightened anew in the new legislation.

## NATION

# Ore. governor resists pressure to resign

By JONATHAN J. COOPER  
The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber is showing no sign of walking away from a decades-long political career, even though he's been abandoned by most of his party's leadership amid influence-peddling allegations surrounding him and his fiancée.

Three senior Democrats on Thursday told the four-term governor, who is under criminal investigation by the attorney general, it was time to step down. The woman who would succeed him described a "strange" meeting after the governor summoned her from Washington, then asked her why she'd come.

Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, both Democrats, said they

met with Kitzhaber Thursday morning and told him the controversy was becoming too much of a distraction. State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, also a Democrat, issued a statement asking Kitzhaber to leave.

"He was upset," Courtney told reporters. "He was defiant. He's struggling."

He made no public appearances on Thursday. Sheriff's deputies were posted outside his Portland house, and authorities said it was extra security because of the journalists milling around. It was not known if he was inside.



Kitzhaber

The state attorney general's office on Thursday ordered Kitzhaber's fiancée, Sylvia Hayes, to release emails from private accounts that discuss state business following a public records request from The Oregonian. Hayes, through a lawyer, opposed the request. She has seven days to comply or appeal.

If Kitzhaber, 67, resigns, he will be succeeded by Oregon's secretary of state — fellow Democrat Kate Brown. Brown would be the nation's first openly bisexual governor, according to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. A liberal Democrat, she's widely considered to be to Kitzhaber's left.

On Thursday, Brown described what she called "strange" behavior by Kitzhaber in a private meeting with him a day earlier. She said the governor had asked

her to fly back to Oregon from a conference in Washington, D.C., but when she arrived he asked why she had returned.

She said Kitzhaber told her he's not resigning, but then began a discussion about a transition.

"This is clearly a bizarre and unprecedented situation," Brown said in a statement.

Questions about Hayes have swirled for months, but the pressure on Kitzhaber intensified in recent weeks after newspapers raised questions about whether Hayes reported all her income on her tax returns.

Neither the governor nor Hayes has been charged with any wrongdoing. But earlier this month, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she was launching a criminal investigation.

Kitzhaber has said he and

Hayes took steps to avoid conflicts of interest.

Also on Thursday, a spokesman for the Department of Administrative Services, which maintains the state email archives, confirmed a newspaper report that the governor's office had asked that Kitzhaber's personal emails be deleted from the archives.

Matt Shelby said the agency had discovered Kitzhaber's personal emails were being mistakenly forwarded to the server and then informed Kitzhaber's office. He said the governor's office asked that personal emails be deleted from the server, and the agency said it could not do that. He said the governor's office is going through the emails to determine which are public records under Oregon law.

## Utah mother guilty of killing six newborns

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
AND BRADY MCCOMBS  
The Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — A woman who said she was too addicted to methamphetamine to raise more children pleaded guilty to charges that she killed six of her newborn babies and hid their bodies in her garage over a 10-year period.

Prosecutors say the plea deal means Megan Huntsman, 39, likely will spend the rest of her life in prison over what authorities described as a heinous series of killings from 1996 to 2006.

Huntsman's voice broke as she said "guilty" six times Thursday to answer for each count.

The infants' remains were discovered by their father, Darren West, last April as he gathered belongings from the home they had shared in Pleasant Grove, a city of about 35,000.

West, Huntsman's estranged husband, called police after finding the first tiny body in a cardboard box. Authorities found the rest, seven in all, one of which they said was stillborn.

Huntsman told police she strangled or suffocated the newborns immediately after they were born, wrapped their bodies in cloth, put

them into plastic bags and packed them in boxes. She told investigators she was addicted to meth at the time and didn't want to care for the babies.



Huntsman

Authorities believe Huntsman gave birth to the children at home, but it remains unclear how she concealed the pregnancies and murders from family members and friends.

West discovered the bodies shortly after he finished an eight-year federal prison stint in on meth charges. He lived with Huntsman during the decade when they were killed, but police said they aren't investigating him in connection with the deaths.

West and Huntsman have three other children, who are with other family members. He was not in court and has not spoken publicly about the case.

Defense attorney Anthony Howell declined to comment, as did family members who attended the court hearing about 45 miles south of Salt Lake City.

## Shooting kills 1 during Mardi Gras parade

NEW ORLEANS — One person was killed and another was wounded along the route of a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, police said, but the popular event rolled on.

About 10 p.m. Thursday, a person produced a gun and shot the two people during the Muses parade, police spokesman Frank Robertson said.

A suspect was in custody, and a weapon was recovered nearby. Police could not release any other details.

Officers stationed nearby responded immediately and barriers were set up, but the parade continued. The New Orleans Advocate reported.

One victim was struck in the chest and died in surgery, Robertson said. The other was struck in the neck and was in the hospital.

From The Associated Press



CHUCK LIDDY, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Namee Barakat, center, watches during funeral services for his son, Deah Shaddy Barakat, on Thursday in Wendell, N.C.

## Thousands attend funeral for slain Muslims in North Carolina

By EMERY P. DALESIO  
AND MICHAEL BISECKER  
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The fathers of three young Muslims allegedly slain by a neighbor who was angry over parking spots stood before their caskets Thursday and urged a crowd of thousands to protect others by demanding justice.

More than 5,000 people came to the funeral of Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23; his wife, Yusra Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21; and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19, who were killed Tuesday in the couple's Chapel Hill apartment.

A self-described "gun toting" atheist with a reputation for bul-

lying his neighbors, Craig Stephen Hicks, turned himself in and was jailed on first-degree murder charges.

Chapel Hill police said they are investigating whether religious or ethnic hatred motivated Hicks in any way, and federal investigators said hate crimes haven't been ruled out. The FBI also announced Thursday that it has "opened a parallel preliminary inquiry to determine whether any federal laws were violated."

U.S. Attorney Ripley Rand, the district's top federal prosecutor, had said Wednesday that there was no immediate evidence Muslims were being targeted.

And that didn't sit well with many at the funeral, where the

victims were hailed as martyrs for their faith.

"When we say this was a hate crime, it is all about protecting all other children in the U.S.A.," Dr. Mohammad Yousif Abu-Salha, who lost his daughters, told the crowd. "It's all about making this country that they loved, where they lived and died, peaceful for everybody else."

"We need to identify things the way they really are," Abu-Salha continued. "If somebody picks up a fight about anything they can invent, and they murder three people execution-style, we know what this is about. And they have posted on their Facebook how much they hated faith, there's no doubt."



## NATION

# Dramatic arrest of defendant detailed at Chris Kyle trial

By JAMIE STENGLE  
The Associated Press

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Eddie Ray Ruth spoke of insanity, anarchy and the apocalypse when police tried to arrest him after the shooting deaths of "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle and his friend.

Much of the dramatic evidence presented by prosecutors so far in Ruth's capital murder trial, including the police video of his arrest, has outlined for jurors his actions and words on the day Kyle and Chad Littlefield were killed at a rural Texas shooting range two years ago. Testimony continued Friday.

Defense attorneys are mounting an insanity defense for the former Marine. Prosecutors have described Ruth, 27, as a troubled drug user who knew right from wrong despite any history of mental illnesses.

If convicted, Ruth faces life in prison without parole. Prosecutors aren't seeking the death penalty.

The case has drawn intense interest, largely because of the

Oscar-nominated film based on Kyle's memoir that details his four tours in Iraq. The film has grossed nearly \$300 million.

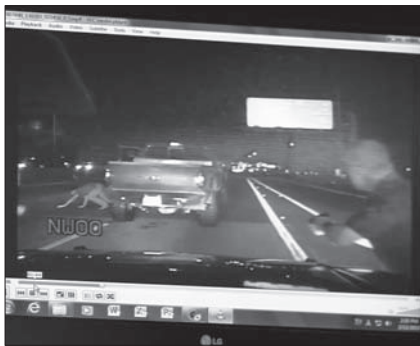
On Thursday, prosecutors presented a video in which officers spoke with Ruth as he sat in the back of a truck that authorities said he took from Kyle after fleeing the shooting range where Kyle and Littlefield were killed. He refused to leave the vehicle and eventually sped off with police in pursuit.

At one point during the chase, the video shows that a police vehicle rammed the pickup. Eventually, the car became disabled along the side of the road.

The video showed officers trying to talk Ruth into surrendering as he makes comments such as, "Anarchy has been killing the world," "I don't know if I'm going insane," and, "Is this about hell walking on earth right now?"

Authorities say Ruth had earlier driven to his sister's house, admitted to the killings and told his sister, "People were sucking his soul."

Lancaster police Lt. Michael Smith said Thursday that Ruth



TOM FOX, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

**Video from the dashboard camera of a Lancaster, Texas, police vehicle shows former Marine Cpl. Eddie Ray Ruth, left, surrendering after a chase. The video was shown on a courtroom monitor during Ruth's trial on Thursday.**

"told us he'd taken a couple of souls and he had more souls to take."

In presenting the video Thursday, prosecutor Jane Starves said: "I think we can agree he makes some kind of odd statements."

Defense attorneys have noted that even Kyle, a famed former Navy SEAL, had described Ruth as "straight-up nuts" in a text message he sent the same day he was gunned down.

Texas Ranger Michael Adcock testified Thursday that Kyle and Littlefield were armed at the time of the shootings but it did not appear the weapons they carried

were ever removed from their holsters. A medical examiner testified that Kyle was shot six times, Littlefield seven. Both had several gunshot wounds that would have been fatal.

Ruth's mother had asked Kyle, whose wartime exploits were depicted in his 2012 memoir, to help her son overcome personal troubles that had at least twice led him to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital. Ruth had been a small arms technician who served in Iraq and was deployed to earthquake-ravaged Haiti before leaving the Marines in 2010.

## Ski resorts in California struggling from drought

By SCOTT SMITH  
The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — With the state entering its fourth drought year, even some big resorts with millions of dollars in modern snow-making equipment don't have all their lifts running. The mid-sized and family-owned resorts struggling most had hoped to reopen for the Presidents Day holiday, traditionally the year's biggest weekend for skiing.

A recent winter storm washing over California originated in the tropics and dropped more rain than the much needed snow. While any wet weather is welcomed in California, the storm didn't end

the drought or put all the dormant resorts back in business.

**'We're basically the canary in the coal mine. It's kind of a sad state here in California.'**

Janet Tuttle  
Donner Ski Ranch

to close mid-season. "It's kind of a sad state here in California."

A stingy snowfall had left Donner's mountain face marked with brown patches of exposed dirt and rock. Tuttle and her husband, Marshall, closed the resort's six chairlifts and two beginner runs by mid-January. They reopened Wednesday with a little boost from the recent storm, hoping to keep the lifts running this weekend.

California's 27 resorts — and two in neighboring Nevada — make up the nation's second most popular destination for skiers and snowboarders after Colorado, said Bob Roberts, executive director of the California Ski Industry Association.

China Peak Mountain Resort east of Fresno was among the latest ski areas forced to suspend business, following others in Northern California such as Donner Ski Ranch, Dodge Ridge and Yosemite's Badger Pass. Mt. Baldy Ski Lifts near Los Angeles also closed.

Homewood Mountain Resort at Lake Tahoe suspended skiing early this month, but also plans to open for the Presidents Day weekend with a few inches of fresh snow from recent storms.

Ski season started strong with heavy snowfall in December blanketing California's mountains. Resorts opened before Christmas, but the start of the previous week with raised hopes that more snow would follow.

But January set records as the driest and the second warmest in recorded history, said Michael Anderson, a climatologist with the state's Department of Water Resources.

## Ice fishing contests offer big cash for big catches

By MICHAEL HILL  
The Associated Press

MAYFIELD, N.Y. — Standing on an icy lake. Watching a 10-inch hole all day. Waiting for a fish to bite.

It's a popular pastime in colder climates like the Adirondacks — especially when there's cash on the line.

More than 1,700 competitors spread out across the icy expanse of Great Sacandaga Lake recently for the seventh-annual Walleye Challenge. Contests like this that offer cash for big catches are common around the country — a frosty bit of Americana that combines fish, fun and money.

Participants on the southern Adirondack lake bored holes at dawn and stayed until dark. They kept an eye on their fishing holes from inside windblown tents and cozy trailers or simply stood out on the snowy moonscape amid single-digit temperatures colder than their cans of beer.

"This is where it's at," said Tim Delaney, out with his wife, Tina, and their sons. "You've got to live the winter and be outside and enjoy it to the fullest or it's going to be a loosing winter."

Ice fishing is often associated with the Great Lakes region but is popular across the higher latitudes. The American Sportfishing Association says there were 1.9 million ice anglers in 2011, a 12 percent increase from five years



MIKE GROLL/AP

**Josh Brown, of Johnstown, N.Y., holds a walleye he caught during the Walleye Challenge on Great Sacandaga Lake in Mayfield, N.Y. The all-day Sacandaga competition offered cash prizes totaling \$1,649 each hour for the biggest catches, plus big-ticket prizes like a snowmobile.**

earlier. Contests are a way to bring ice fishing lovers together. One of the most famous contests, the Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Gull Lake in Minnesota, attracted more than 11,000 people last month, according to organizers.

The all-day Sacandaga competition offered cash prizes totaling \$1,649 an hour for the biggest catches, plus big-ticket prizes like a snowmobile and off-road vehicles on the lake all winter, the competi-

tion is an added incentive to go out in the elements.

Organizer Lou Stutzke, who operates a local convenience store, started the contest with Hank "Beaver" Ross, who was inspired by a competition in the northern Adirondacks that had hourly prizes. Seven years ago, they capped the number of contestants at 1,000 but have bumped that up since. Now, their 1,750 slots sell out in a few weeks.

"It grew into a monster, basically," Stutzke said.

Fishing holes are topped by spring-loaded "tip-ups" with little orange flags that whip up when a line is pulled. But pulling a fish in takes skill. Bruce Gollmer knelt on the ice with the line in his hand, pulling it in with his bare hands then letting the fish run out some. He finally landed a 32-inch northern pike.

"They've got a mouthful of teeth and they'll snap a line with one shake of the head, so you want to tire them out and just slowly bring them in," Gollmer said.

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Militants penetrate perimeter of Al Asad AB

## Iraqi forces kill all 8 attackers at facility where about 400 US troops are stationed

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Islamic State militants on Friday penetrated the perimeter of an Iraqi base where about 400 U.S. troops are stationed, according to military officials.

Eight insurgents attacked an Iraqi army facility on the Al Asad Air Base in Anbar province, according to a statement by Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve.

"The Iraqi Security Forces supported by Coalition surveillance assets defeated the attack, killing all eight attackers. The ISF have

since re-secured their facility," CJTF-OIR said in the statement. Australian army Maj. Sarah Hawke, a task force spokeswoman, said the militants penetrated the perimeter of the base, but coalition forces were not directly involved in the counterattack. Their contribution was limited to aerial surveillance to assist the ISF.

"Coalition forces were several kilometers from the attack and at no stage were they under direct threat from this action," CJTF-OIR said in the statement.

Hawke said the militants are believed to have been on a suicide mission, but she did not know

**'Coalition forces were several kilometers from the attack...'**

Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve

regularly launching small-scale rocket and mortar attacks on the facility.

The base "has been subjected

what types of weapons they used.

This isn't the first time that Al Asad has come under insurgent

attack. For months, the Islamic State group has been

regularly launching small-scale rocket and mortar attacks on the facility.

The base "has been subjected

to ineffective, indirect fires ... on average several times per week for several months now," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters Thursday before the attack that breached the perimeter occurred. "Al Asad is a large and sprawling base. Thus far, none of the indirect fire attacks that have been launched against it have had any impact at all — no American casualties, no American equipment damaged."

There are about 400 American troops at Al Asad training and advising ISF forces, who are battling the Islamic State group in Anbar and across Iraq. Presi-

dent Barack Obama has ruled out sending American ground forces into combat in Iraq, and the administration's strategy for defeating the Islamic State group relies heavily on local forces to retake captured territory.

The U.S. military plans to train nine ISF brigades and three peshmarga brigades. Iraqi forces are expected to launch major offensives to retake key terrain, perhaps as early as this spring.

There are about 2,600 total U.S. troops in Iraq.

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HANI MOHAMMED/AP

Policemen stand by U.S. Embassy vehicles while patrolling at a parking lot of the Sanaa International Airport in Yemen on Friday.

## Official: US surprised at collapse of Yemen

By KEN DILANIAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration's senior counterterrorism official acknowledged Thursday that U.S. intelligence was surprised by the collapse of the U.S.-backed government in Yemen.

Nick Rasmussen, who directs the National Counterterrorism Center, told the Senate intelligence committee that Yemen's American-funded army failed to oppose advancing Houthi rebels in the same way the U.S.-supported Iraqi military refused to fight Islamic State militants last year.

What happened in Iraq with the onslaught of the Islamic State group "happened in Yemen" on "a somewhat smaller scale," he said. "As the Houthi advances toward Sanaa took place ... they weren't opposed in many places. ... The situation deteriorated far more rapidly than we expected."

Rasmussen made the admission under questioning by Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., who noted that

President Barack Obama recently touted Yemen as a success. Now, it's a "total disaster," Blunt said.

In response to other questioning, Rasmussen also noted that extremists in Libya, Afghanistan, Egypt and Algeria had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, suggesting a growing influence of that al-Qaida rival.

The Islamic State group is now the dominant extremist group in the Libyan cities of Derna and Benghazi, where a 2012 attack killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, he said.

"We've seen in recent months ISIL has looked to expand its reach in a number of places," Rasmussen said, referring to the militant group by one of its acronyms. He acknowledged that efforts against al-Qaida's Yemen affiliate, considered one of the most dangerous to Americans, had been significantly diminished by the collapse of the government and this week's evacuation of the U.S. Embassy.

By MOUSAB ALHAMADEE  
AND ROY GUTMAN  
McClatchy Foreign Staff

NIZIP, Turkey — Mohammad Na'us was one of the most respected men in al-Bab. He was the undertaker who washed the bodies of the dead prior to burial, a pious Quranic scholar who issued the sundown call to prayer in the Syrian town near the Turkish border, and for the past year, a seller of bread in his neighborhood.

But on Dec. 28, the bakery's delivery was late and he missed the prayers at sundown. Religious police arrested Na'us, a father of five in his 50s, and ordered him to spend one night in prison.

It was his last.

At 7:20 p.m., a U.S. airstrike leveled al-Bab's al Saraya government center. Townspeople say dozens, including Na'us, died in the strike. U.S. officials, while acknowledging the strike, deny that any civilians died.

"That night, you could hear the screams and wailing of women in the town when they heard al Saraya was bombed," said Abu Hussein, 55, who lived near the government center and passed it daily on his way to pray at the local mosque. "They knew their sons and relatives were in the building."

The speaker, interviewed in Antakya, Turkey, asked to be identified by a pseudonym that means "Hussein's father," fearing retribution by the Islamic State group should he return to al-Bab.

McClatchy first reported on Jan. 11 that at least 50 civilians in the prison had died in the U.S. airstrike. Three days after that report, the U.S. Central Command said a review of the airstrike had determined that allegations of civilian casualties "are not credible."

McClatchy, however, has found more substantiation for its initial report from refugees who fled al-Bab and now inhabit towns in southern Turkey. With the help of relatives, neighbors and friends, McClatchy has assembled a list of the full names of 10 civilians who reportedly died in the airstrike and the family names of another



LEFTERIS PITIRAKIS/AP

Thick smoke rises following an airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition in Kobani, near the Turkey-Syria border, in mid-October. Residents of al-Bab, Syria, continue to insist that an airstrike at the end of December killed at least 50 civilians, despite a U.S. Central Command review indicating such allegations "are not credible."

14. The Syrian Network for Human Rights, a monitoring group aligned with opponents of Syrian President Bashar Assad, said it has a verified list of 24 civilians killed. Spokeswoman Huda al Ali said the network estimates that a minimum of 55 civilians died.

Another opposition monitoring group, the Violations Documentation Center, said more than 60 detainees, including some children, died in the attack, and that 20 injured civilians were extracted alive from the rubble.

Nearly every one of the more than 40 townspeople from al-Bab and nearby towns interviewed by McClatchy reporters said the number of dead was several times higher.

The difference between the new information and the U.S.

military's insistence that there was no evidence to back reports of the civilian deaths takes on added significance in the wake of the killing of Kayla Mueller, 26, an aid worker from Arizona who died last week in Syria.

The Islamic State group claimed Mueller was killed Feb. 6 when Jordanian planes bombed a building outside Raqqa, Syria, where she was being held prisoner. U.S. officials earlier this week acknowledged that Jordanian aircraft, "with the support of U.S. military crews," had struck the building on that date, but they denied there was any evidence that civilians or Islamic State militants had been present.

The al-Bab case, however, raises questions about how much information U.S. air crews have about the targets they hit.

## WORLD

# Turkey rolls back secular education for 'pious generations'

By SUZAN FRASER  
The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Pastor Ahmet Guvener managed to get his daughter, a Christian, an exemption from mandatory religious classes in her Turkish school. But he soon found that the 17-year-old wasn't really off the hook.

As an alternative to the classes at her school in Diyarbakir, in southeast Turkey, she would have to choose from three electives: the life of the Prophet Muhammad, the Quran or basic religious knowledge — or fail the year.

"It seriously damaged my child's psychology," said Guvener, who heads the Protestant Church in Diyarbakir. He accuses the school of deliberately forcing religious education on students — a claim the teachers' union denied.

Turkey has long enshrined the secular ideals of founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, particularly in an educational system that until recently banned Islamic headscarves in schools and made schoolchildren begin the day reciting an oath of allegiance to Ataturk's legacy. Now proponents of Turkey's secular traditions claim President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is taking a new path, building a more Islam-fused education system to realize his stated goal of raising "pious generations."

The ruling Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party insists it is simply heeding the demands of a conservative and pious majority. It says the education measures aim to undo restrictions on religious education that were imposed following Turkey's so-called "soft military coup" of 1977, when the then-powerful military — which saw itself as the guardian of Ataturk's secular principles — pressured

an Islamic-led government out of power and moved to close down vocational religious middle schools.

"Education is an ideological tool," said Sakine Esen Yilmaz, secretary-general of the left-leaning Education and Science Laborer's Union. "It is (now) being used to raise an obedient generation that will serve the government."

Last week, thousands of people demonstrated in Istanbul to demand that the secular principles of education be upheld. They urged the government to halt a perceived campaign to impose the Sunni faith and to respect the rights of students from the Alevi Shiite sect that constitutes Turkey's largest religious minority.

On Friday, hundreds of pro-secular and Alevi students and teachers boycotted school to protest the government's religious education stance and thousands marched in several Turkish cities holding up banners calling for a secular and science-based education system.

Police used water cannons to disperse thousands of people who marched in the Aegean port city of Izmir. Media reports said at least 10 people were detained in five Turkish cities for organizing the boycott.

As an indication of possible steps to come, the country's national education advisory council, dominated by a pro-government teacher's union, recommended a series of other controversial measures that included increasing the number of compulsory religious classes from one to two hours per week; lowering the starting age of these classes to 6 from 9; teaching religious values at preschools; and removing a class on the preparation of cocktails from vocational tourism schools' curriculum.

## Boko Haram launches first attacks on Chadian village

The Associated Press

MOUNDOU, Chad — Suspected Boko Haram militants attacked a village on the shore of Lake Chad early Friday, marking the first such violence against the neighbor contributing the most military might to the regional fight against the Nigeria-based terror group.

The assault took place in the village of Ngouboua, according to army Col. Azem Bermendo. It was not immediately known how many civilians were killed during the attack, he said.

"The assailants have scattered and the army is now pursuing them," Bermendo told The Associated Press by telephone.

Boko Haram has expanded

its attacks against neighboring countries during the past week following threats to punish any nations contributing to the fight against the terror group. Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Benin all have pledged to send military support though Chadian soldiers are already fighting Boko Haram militants inside Cameroon and Nigeria. The multinational force to fight Boko Haram is expected to be formally launched in the coming weeks.

Ngouboua is already home to nearly 3,300 refugees who had fled the Boko Haram-related violence back home in Nigeria, according to the United Nations.



PETER DAVID JOSEK/AP

Ukrainian government soldiers inspect the body of a child covered with cloth Friday after shelling in a residential area of the town of Artemivsk, Ukraine.

# Shells hits Ukraine town behind front line, killing 1

By BALINT SZLANKO  
The Associated Press

ARTEMIVSK, Ukraine — Despite a looming cease-fire deal for eastern Ukraine, a government-held town 25 miles behind the front line has been hit by shelling, killing at least one person.

Associated Press reporters saw the body of a child killed Friday afternoon after rocket fire hit a residential area in Artemivsk. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack.

The shelling occurred as Russian-backed separatists are mounting a major, sustained effort Friday to capture Debaltseve, a strategic railway hub south of Artemivsk, ahead of a weekend cease-fire.

The deadline for the warring sides to halt hostilities is Sunday morning at one minute after midnight.

Clashes appeared only to have increased in the day since a peace agreement was sealed in the Belarusian capital of Minsk by the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Ger-

many and France. German Chancellor Angela Merkel cautiously described the agreement negotiated Thursday as "a glimmer of hope."

Debaltseve was on the receiving end of dozens of artillery and rocket salvos in the 24-hour period following the Minsk talks, Ukrainian military officials said.

Associated Press reporters Friday observed intense shelling along the highway north of the town, which remains the only land link between Debaltseve and the remainder of government-controlled territory.

Interfax-Ukraine news agency quoted Petro Mekhed, Ukraine's deputy defense minister, as saying separatist forces had been given the task of hoisting their flags over Debaltseve, as well as the port city of Mariupol, by Sunday.

Military spokesman Andriy Ly-senko said Friday that 11 soldiers were killed and another 40 were wounded during the previous day. Regional authorities loyal to Kiev

reported six civilian deaths in areas under their control, while rebels said seven people were killed in artillery attacks on the separatist-held cities of Luhansk and Horlivka.

Separatist forces recently have nearly completely encircled Ukrainian forces in Debaltseve, where all but a few thousand civilians have fled to areas away from the front.

Ukraine says that Debaltseve should remain in government control under the terms of a September peace deal that traced the contours of the front line. A copy of that agreement leaked to Ukrainian media last month shows the town lying on the government's side of the line of contact agreed by rebel and Ukrainian officials alike.

Ukrainian access to the sole highway still linking the town to government-held territory looks to have been compromised with the apparent capture of the village of Lohynovne, which lies along the road, just north of Debaltseve.

## Taliban kill 20 at Shiite mosque in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Taliban militants stormed a Shiite Muslim mosque in northwestern Pakistan on Friday, killing 20 people in a wave of gunfire and explosions before the siege ended, officials said.

The attack marks the latest violence against a religious minority that has suffered repeated bombings and assassinations

by hard-line Islamic militants. The violence also underscored the challenges the military and police face to secure the country two months after a horrific Taliban attack against a school sparked public outrage and cries for greater security.

The attack in the city of Peshawar wounded more than 45 people, according to Mian Mohammad Saeed, the chief of operations for the Peshawar police.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the violence.

There were varying accounts of how many attackers carried out the assault. The militants released a video showing three attackers while the head of the provincial police, Nasir Durrani, said four or five attackers were involved.

The attackers entered the mosque from a building next door that was under construction, he said. They jumped over an outer wall into the mosque courtyard.

From The Associated Press



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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96338-5002.

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## OPINION

## Obama's sadder but wiser foreign policy

By DOYLE MCMANUS  
Los Angeles Times

When he entered the White House in 2009, Barack Obama had grand ambitions in foreign policy. He planned to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, track a better relationship with Russia, brook peace between Israel and the Palestinians and offer a hand of friendship to Iran and the Muslim world.

Six years later, the president, and the rest of us, are sadder but wiser. American troops are still in Afghanistan and back in Iraq, although in much smaller numbers and not in ground combat. The "reset" with Russia and prospects for peace in the Middle East are little more than wishful memories.

So when the White House published the second-term edition of its national security strategy last week, one of its goals was simply to catch up with those new realities, and to reassert that the United States has no choice but to stay engaged.

"The question is never whether America should lead, but how we lead," the president wrote in his preface to the 29-page manifesto.

There's a lot of leadership in the pages that follow — a series of rebuttals, in effect, to Republican critics who charge that Obama isn't leading and doesn't want to.

"We will lead with purpose," the document says. "We will lead with strength. ... We will lead by example."

We will lead every way we can, it seems, except one: We won't lead from behind. (That phrase, used accurately but incautiously by a White House aide during the U.S.-led war in Libya, has long since been retired.)

And it's true that the Obama administration has been leading: in the war against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, in the nuclear negotiations with Iran, and (with Germany and France) in the campaign to stop Russia from conquering more of

**For Obama, the main foreign policy lesson is still the one he campaigned on in 2008: U.S. power should be used sparingly.**

Ukraine.

That's why it was interesting that Obama himself, in a long interview the online magazine Vox published this week, chose to emphasize a different theme: no leadership, but lower expectations.

Yes, he said, the U.S. will still be "the indispensable nation for the rest of this century, just like it was for the last one." But the president's main point was that even a superpower with strong allies can sometimes make only a modest difference in an increasingly complex world.

"You take the victories where you can. You make things a little bit better rather than a little bit worse," Obama said. "And that's in no way a concession to this idea that America is withdrawing," Obama said, "or there's not much we can do. It's just a realistic assessment of how the world works."

Take the Middle East. "I came in with some very clear theories about what my goals were going to be," Obama said. "And then the Arab Spring happened." Now, he said, he'd be glad just to see some "movement toward greater stability."

Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, echoed the theme, calling for "strategic patience." That's another way of describing the limits of U.S. power, a warning that problems like Islamic extremism will take a generation to abate.

"Too often what's missing here in Washington is a sense of perspective," said Rice.

"While the dangers we face may be more numerous and varied, they are not of the existential nature we confronted during

World War II or the Cold War," she said.

In other words, things aren't as bad as they look. So could you please cut us some slack?

She has a point. The terrorists of Islamic State aren't a direct threat to the United States — so far, at least. Iran's nuclear program is in effect frozen. Russia is threatening Ukraine, but it's no longer a global menace.

But for Obama, the main foreign policy lesson is still the one he campaigned on in 2008: U.S. power should be used sparingly.

"The real challenge for the country — not just during my presidency but in future presidencies — is recognizing that leading does not always mean occupying ... and that American leadership means wherever possible leveraging other countries, other resources," he told Vox.

Even though his new national security framework includes a daunting list of threats (it ranks climate change and epidemics alongside nuclear proliferation and terrorism) and national interests (including not only democracy but also, for the first time, the human rights of LGBT people), the main point the president wants to make was about the limits on American power.

That will disappoint both conservative and liberal interventionists, who want to see Obama intervene more vigorously in Syria or send weapons to the government of Ukraine. His implicit answer: Still not interested.

The traditional word for that vein of foreign policy thinking is realism: Making sure our goals don't outstrip our means.

With two years to run, Obama does have a foreign policy strategy — or, at least, a compendium of threats and goals. As he enters the last chapter of his presidency, he and his aides are inevitably thinking ahead to what their legacy will be.

Their message to history's referees last week was: Lower your expectations.

Doyle McManus is the Los Angeles Times columnist.

## Strauss-Kahn's defense is no defense at all

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY  
Bloomberg News

Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has revealed his defense strategy for his ongoing pimping trial in France: He denies knowledge that the young women who consented to have sex with him in hotel rooms were prostitutes. The judge, and the world watching the tawdry saga, are supposed to believe Strauss-Kahn was so naïve that he thought they were attracted to him.

Judge Bernard Lemaire should strike down that defense for the sake of all powerful men. They need to know that society expects better of them than that.

Strauss-Kahn is on trial for aiding and abetting prostitution, an offense equivalent to pimping. He is not accused of being a pimp *per se*, only of accepting the services of businessmen friends who arranged sex parties in Europe and the U.S. That's why it's important for Strauss-Kahn to deny all knowledge of any paid sex.

"It gives me no pleasure and I'm even horrified," he protested. "This is not the kind of sexuality I appreciate. Such a creepy relationship doesn't satisfy me."

Yet here were the women, some of them describing his lovemaking as so abusive that it brought tears to their eyes. "Car-nage" was the word one of them used. Did

Strauss-Kahn really believe they were so impressed with his less-than-fit 60-year-old body, wrinkled face and gray hair that they were happy to satisfy his every wish?

The answer is no. Strauss-Kahn says his confidence stemmed from his position at the time: From 2008 to 2011, he was one of the most powerful people in the world, head of the IMF. "Let's say I saved the world from a crisis that could have been worse than the one in 1929," Strauss-Kahn said at the trial with no trace of fear of sounding pompous. That, he implied, was why he took his friends' — and, by extension, the women's — favors for granted: "A lot of people wanted to please me at the time."

Henry Kissinger once called power a "great aphrodisiac" and later apparently corrected himself, changing the adjective to "ultimate." It's not impossible to believe that people would want to have sex with someone on the front lines of saving the world from financial catastrophe, or even simply someone who was often on television and in the newspapers. For Strauss-Kahn to assume, however, that this would be sufficient motivation for numerous young women to have anonymous group sex with him is a sign of either incredible arrogance or serious lack of judgment.

It shouldn't be a requirement for politicians and public officials to be paragons of virtue. In Europe, particularly in France,

they are rightly allowed their affairs and nasty divorces. French President Francois Hollande survived the 2014 revelations of a love affair with actress Juliet Gayet, who resault in his highly public breakup with longtime partner Valerie Trierweiler. There is no direct connection between missteps in affairs of the heart and the ability to govern. Yet Strauss-Kahn's character flaw, highlighted by his defense, is of a different kind.

If he is telling the truth, then he was willing to accept favors as his due because of his position. That's only acceptable in a kleptocracy. Anywhere else, the perks of high office are a finite list that doesn't include rich gifts and willing women. It's also scary to imagine that the head of the IMF couldn't tell professional hookers from fellow libertines: One hopes he applied better judgment to nations' applications for last-ditch financial aid.

Even if the court takes Strauss-Kahn's defense at face value, it shouldn't accept naïveté, myopia or arrogance as mitigating factors. If anything, for someone as important and accomplished as Strauss-Kahn was, they are aggravating circumstances. Humility and an analytical intelligence are requirements for a strong leader these days, even as sexual continence is not.

Leonid Bershidsky, a Bloomberg View contributor, is a Berlin-based writer.

## OPINION

## Stewart will no longer be looking out for us

By MARGARET CARLSON  
Bloomberg News

It was only minutes into an interview with Jon Stewart before a screening of his film, "Rosewater," last November when I knew he would never fully return to "The Daily Show." Working on that heartfelt and effective movie about an Iranian journalist who was imprisoned by the regime for 118 days made the comedian wax poetic about how lasting and indelible film was compared to a television show.

He was explicit about his change in attitude in his surprise announcement that he was leaving at the end of Tuesday night. "What is this fluid," he said, pointing to his eyes. "What are these feelings," he said pounding the desk. He then confirmed what he had hinted at a few months earlier: "This show doesn't deserve another slightly restless night."

There had been signs. His had become a factory of satire and social commentary, attracting and developing talent that often bid fair to surpass the master. John Oliver has taken uncovering the truth into new territory, rooting out corruption in places as varied as the Miss America pageant and for-profit schools that exploit veterans. Stephen Colbert did such a job unspinning phony spin with truthiness that he is taking over for David Letterman on comedy news and report data online, Larry Wilmore, has made a promising beginning with his "Nightly Show."

Stewart got his start in 1999 and an ocean of material was

soon lapping at his shore — wild conventions, the 2000 recount that gave him the "Indecision 2000" trope, Sarah Palin, the tea party, two endless wars and a global financial meltdown. He mined every last bit and soon was a public figure of such standing that he was twice invited to host the Oscars. How could he give it all up?

— Maybe after 17 years he felt — as many of us do — that he just couldn't face the void of another election. He made exposing meaty-mouthed politicians look like shooting fish in a barrel. Maybe the sight of all those dead fish became too much to look at.

What's certain is that Stewart's departure will have a greater impact on the American public's news literacy than the suspension of Brian Williams from "NBC Nightly News."

Williams is a newsreader of the conventional wisdom, albeit one with 8.3 million viewers. Stewart's four-nights-a-week skewering gets an average of 1.3 million viewers, but these are in the coveted 18-to-29 demographic. When the Pew Research Center asked four questions to measure knowledge of political news and current events, "Daily Show" viewers did significantly better than network news viewers.

The comedian's segment on the Williams debacle was Stewart-at-full. First came criticism of Williams' traditional news combat-zone danger, then the human sympathy for the humiliated anchor — a sharp contrast to the joyo many rivals seem to have in his fall. Then Stewart pivoted



VIKTORIA WILL, INVISION/AP

Jon Stewart poses for a portrait in promotion of his film "Rosewater" in New York in November. Stewart, who announced this week that he will leave "The Daily Show" this year, has won 20 Emmys.

to a larger point: the relative triviality of Williams' offense compared with the far greater lies told about the Iraq War that will forever go un punished.

Stewart showed that Williams gave an initially accurate rendition of his helicopter ride in Iraq but that as the years passed, the story grew. By the time Williams made his fateful comments about surviving the shoot-down of the chopper on the "Late Show With David Letterman" in 2013, he was infected with "infotainment confusion syndrome," which occurs when the "brain's applause center" pushes a celebrity into "full-blown anecdote mode."

Stewart came as close to defending Williams as he could by putting his downfall in its proper

context. "Finally, someone is being held to account for misleading America about the Iraq War," he said. "Never again will Brian Williams mislead this great nation about being shot at in a war we probably wouldn't have ended up in if the media had applied this level of scrutiny to the actual [expletive deleted] war."

Unlike many TV personalities, Stewart doesn't seem to be trying to fill a hole inside himself. Williams does. In addition to seeking war zone cred, he wanted to be cool. His schedule was crowded with sideshow — slow-jamming the news with Jimmy Fallon, cameos on "30 Rock," rocking with Bruce Springsteen, hosting Hurricane Sandy concerts. He was trying too hard to make clear

he wasn't your father's anchor-man. At one point, NBC brass pursued Stewart as a possible fill-in for David Gregory on "Meet the Press." Our media wires are so crossed now you can imagine Williams spinning a gig on "Meet the Press" for one on "The Daily Show."

Stewart may have been tiring of the daily grind, and wanting to have dinner with his family whom he heard from multiple sources is made up of "lovely people." But viewers weren't tiring of him. He won 20 Emmys. He went live with his friend Colbert in 2010 when the tea party was on the rise and President Barack Obama was in decline, but the two comics were still hopeful enough to draw hundreds of thousands to the National Mall to encourage civil discourse despite the dysfunction in the Capitol blocks away.

Was it spending time with Maziar Bahari — the Newsweek reporter portrayed in "Rosewater" who put everything on the line to tell a life-and-death story of imprisonment — that convinced Stewart to move on? Or maybe he found it too disheartening that no matter how many fish in the barrel he shot, new ones kept coming, as if politicians, and the voters who elect them, had learned nothing from all those nights Stewart spent exposing mendacity and folly.

The creator of Indecision 2000 will leave us to figure out Indecision 2016 on our own. It won't be easy.

Margaret Carlson is a Bloomberg View columnist.

## First chivalry died. Now privacy is on same path.

By DOMINIC BASUTO

In the digital era, it's not only government agencies and Silicon Valley companies spying on us or attempting to monetize our data — it's our smart TVs and our futuristic cars. And, once the Internet of Things gets fully connected, you can finally say goodbye to privacy, as just about any device will have the ability to eavesdrop on our conversing in chivalry — and perhaps at no time more than during the run-up to Valentine's Day — but consider what chivalry gave us: a patriarchal, hierarchical and class-based society that was literally medieval. Chivalry may have given us honor, nobility and courtly graces, but it also gave us income disparity, gender-specific roles, and a male-dominated boardroom. In short, society outgrew chivalry — just like society is about to outgrow traditional notions of privacy.

The way we think about privacy today is influenced greatly by the classic paper on the right to privacy, written by Warren and Brandeis for Harvard Law Review back in 1890. The paper focused on the ills of a modern media society — gossip, slander and "unauthorized circulation of portraits" — and sought to redress these by defining privacy as "the right to be let alone."

Spend just a few minutes on today's Internet, though, and you'll realize that this 125-year-old notion of privacy is already an anachronism. Our accounts are hacked, our photos are uploaded

for all to see, our medical records are open secrets and our intimate dealings and emails are "proclaimed from the house-tops." Instead of wanting to be "let alone," we now want to be part of the community passing of the age of privacy. First of all, realize that having too much privacy may actually be just as dangerous as having too little privacy. Think of privacy as existing on a continuum between two extremes: "openness" and "secrecy." In a 2013 article for MIT Technol-

ogy Review, Silicon Valley critic Evyreny Morozov acknowledged that the workings of a democracy are such that some information and data is actually critical for technocrats and governments to function. With too much privacy, a society tends toward "secrecy," and that's no good for anyone. The reason why the digital era has resulted in an astonishing erosion of privacy is that open, networked connected societies tend to develop faster. The closed off ones don't innovate and grow their economies (think North Korea). From that perspective, too much privacy is actually a net drag on innovation. And big data, if anything, is hyper-accelerating this shift in how we think about sharing our data because it is eroding our privacy in two key areas that were once verboten: health information and financial information.

People surrendering their privacy can be empowering and a net positive. Take health care, for example. Even a decade ago, one's health data was considered deeply personal, something that you'd only share with trusted doctor. Now, that data is being shared 24/7 with sensors and online bots and being used to keep you healthier. A whole new generation of wearables will fundamen-

tally change the way we think about health data, especially with whom we are willing to share it.

For that reason, attempts to regain privacy rights in the digital era at times appear to be a nostalgic grab for an earlier, analog era when privacy mattered so much more. In the analog era, privacy intrusions happened rarely, if ever; in the digital era, they happen daily. Data Privacy Day on Jan. 28? Please, give me a break. We would do just as well to rename Valentine's Day "National Day of Chivalry" and expect that it would bring back chivalry from the Middle Ages.

As Morozov points out, if we're really serious about more privacy, we're going about it all wrong. Just passing more laws or establishing another "pseudo-holiday" won't work. We can't even agree on when, how or by whom we should be informed when we've been hacked. Without a broad, sweeping set of data privacy laws, the concept of privacy will continue to undergo a re-think.

If there's a reason why the concept of privacy in the digital era is so vexing, it's because we are undergoing a massive sea change in how we think about our analog-based value system. For that reason, we're tempted to view all intrusions on our privacy as

merely an "aberration" — something that can be reversed with just the right set of laws.

The strangeness of talking about protecting our privacy from cars or TVs is probably what it felt like when the friendly neighborhood knight stopped doting on women sometime during the Late Middle Ages. It was shocking and disturbing when a knight no longer held out a chair for a damsel in distress. The first knights who began to challenge the sanity of going off on Crusades to defend Christians probably sounded like heretics. But, ultimately, this evolution in social norms led to rapid innovation of a patriarchal, hierarchical and gender-specific society.

We live in an era when everyone is being tracked, any post on social media might end up somewhere else, the government will spy on us (no matter what it says), and all of our personal records could end up in the wrong hands. Privacy may not have died in 2014, but someone's probably sounded like heretics. But, ultimately, this evolution in social norms led to rapid innovation of a patriarchal, hierarchical and gender-specific society.

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Dominic Basuto is a futurist and blogger based in New York City. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## No charges in police station bacon-tossing

**MA** FRAMINGHAM — A judge has dismissed charges against a Massachusetts woman who threw uncooked bacon and sausage inside a police station while saying she was there to “feed the piggies.”

Lindsey McNamara, of Ashland, was charged with disorderly conduct and malicious destruction of property after the Dec. 26 incident, which was caught on video surveillance.

Police said McNamara, 24, entered the Framingham station with a box of meat and started throwing it and smearing it on the dispatch window.

A judge Wednesday dismissed the destruction charge, saying police had provided little evidence that McNamara had damaged anything.

The MetroWest Daily News reported that the judge said the charge could be restored if police can prove damage.

The disorderly conduct charge will be dismissed upon payment of \$150 in court costs.

## Dog finds hospital where owner treated

**IA** CEDAR RAPIDS — A family says a dog that ran away from home was found inside a Cedar Rapids hospital where her owner was staying.

KCRG-TV reported Thursday that Nancy Franck was at Mercy Medical Center following a surgery.

Last Saturday, her husband discovered their miniature schnauzer, Sissy, was gone from their residence, which is at least 15 blocks away from the hospital.

A hospital security guard used Sissy's tags to call Franck's husband, Dale. He said Sissy was on a mission to see her mom but simply couldn't find the right elevator to take.

The family is still perplexed about how Sissy sniffed her way to the hospital. But they think she might have known her way around from car trips in dropping Nancy Franck off for work next door.

## Police stun live deer to free it from dead deer

**MN** SHOREWOOD — Police in Minnesota used a stun gun to free a live buck that was stuck to a dead deer.

South Lake Minnetonka Police were called to the strange sight at a home in Shorewood in the Twin Cities area on Sunday morning. The antlers of the two bucks were locked together. One deer was dead and the other was thrashing around, trying to break free.

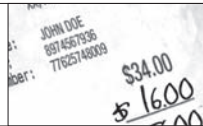
After assessing the situation, officers shocked the live deer with a Taser as residents helped quickly saw off one of its antlers. The deer ran off after coming to.

Patrol officer Rick Syhre told the Star Tribune the bucks probably were stuck together for hours.

## THE CENSUS

# 20

The number of restaurant receipts a former Pennsylvania waitress is accused of modifying to add \$10 or \$20 to tips. Police in Penn Township said Gina Hane, 30, of North Huntingdon, put the number “1” or “2” in front of single-digit tips from customers who paid by credit card at Lucci's Pizza and Pasta. Hane denied knowing anything about the tips before her arraignment Wednesday.



JEFF COOK, THE (DAVENPORT, IOWA) QUAD CITY TIMES/AP

## Presidential pedal power

Abraham Lincoln impersonator Fritz Klein, of Springfield, Ill., makes an appearance Tuesday at Union Station Visitors Center in Davenport, Iowa. He was filming a video for River Action Inc. to help raise money for a footbridge near the site of the first railroad crossing over the Mississippi River.

## Pig drawing attention in dog agility class

**WA** KENT — One student in a suburban Seattle dog agility class is drawing a lot of attention, and not just for her athletic skills. Amy is a pig.

Lori Stock owns 5-month-old Amy and said her indoor pig is a quick learner, very motivated by food rewards.

Amy has already graduated from puppy manners class and has moved on to agility and obedience at the Family Dog Training Center in Kent. Training center president Kathy Lang said that's a first, though she recalls a pygmy goat did attend several training classes.

So amid the barking of the corgis, collies and Labradors, visitors will sometimes hear a snort. And there's Amy, jumping through the hoop, balancing on the teeter-totter, retrieving the dumbbell and zipping through the play tunnel.

## Probe requested over gun theft inquiry

**CA** KENSINGTON — A Northern California town is requesting an independent investigation into how its police chief handled the probe of a sergeant who had his gun stolen by a suspected prostitute in a Nevada hotel room.

Sgt. Keith Barrow was suspended this week by the police department in Kensington, a small town near Berkeley.

The incident began last May when Barrow woke up in a Reno hotel room to find this badge, handcuffs and service pistol stolen by a woman whom he had paid for sex.

The next morning, the prostitute's pimp shot himself in the leg during an argument at a pawnshop. It was not immediately clear why the suspension took so long.

Board President Len Welsh

said Wednesday that the town wanted to learn more about how Police Chief Greg Harman handled the probe.

## Emaciated sea lion rescued on major road

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Officials say that an emaciated sea lion yearling that was probably looking for food was rescued along a major San Francisco boulevard, more than 1,000 feet from the ocean.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported the young male pinniped had dragged himself uphill, through shrubbery and over the busy road before being discovered Wednesday by two motorists.

A park ranger driving through the area stopped to help and took the animal to the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito.

Officials said the sea lion weighs 28 pounds instead of a normal 80 pounds.

## Police: Dealers sold drugs outside eatery

**FL** ORLANDO — Police arrested two men after an anonymous caller told them they were “doing drug deals” in the parking lot outside a Wendy's restaurant in Orlando.

The Orlando Sentinel reported police were told that people kept walking up to the car, knocking on the window, getting in, getting out and leaving. When police showed up on Friday, driver Constantine Kotsiadis, 36, gave them permission to search the car.

Inside, they found more than an ounce of heroin. A man in the backseat told police he had just bought four \$10 bags of heroin from Angel Manuel Fontanez, 30, who also was in the car.

Kotsiadis and Fontanez face charges of trafficking heroin and have previous drug arrests.

From wire reports



## HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

Hooked on **juicing**

Trend expected to grow substantially in 2015

By MARY MACVEAN  
Los Angeles Times

A year ago, trendistas were smuggling up to juice bars all over L.A. to cleanse, reset, detox and glow a little. Today, things are only busier in the world of juice — and I don't mean Minute Maid. Juicing just won't go away.

"The concept has settled into being just part of a healthy life, rather than a thing," says Andrew Freeman of the AF&Co. restaurant consulting firm in San Francisco.

But a "thing" it remains. Juice bars have opened in such L.A. hot spots as the Ace Hotel downtown and in Highland Park, adding to the dozens of places where people are paying in the double digits (yes, you can pay \$12 for a drink that's not spiked

with vodka) for a bottle of juice, albeit cold-pressed and organic in a range of pretty colors. Cold-pressed juice is even for sale in airports and at Trader Joe's.

"It's amazing," Dave Otto says one morning outside his pristine, tiny shop on Beverly Boulevard in Los Angeles. His business began in 1975 as the Beverly Hills Juice Club, an extension of his juice for "a perfect diet." These days, he does 10 to 15 times the business he did then, he says.

The cold-pressed juice market is estimated at \$100 million a year. What gives?

In a way, it's the moral equivalent of an Egg McMuffin — fast and convenient — although the juice client would never venture into a fast-food shop.

Today's juice — cold-pressed between plates, meaning no heat is used — is a great answer for busy people, says Alexis Schultz, co-founder and chief visionary officer of the Costa Mesa, Calif.-based Nektar Juice Bar chain of 49 shops. "It's accessible for people who try to get their fruits and vegetables in but who say, 'I just don't have time to sit down and eat a salad,'" she said.

Are we really that busy? Apparently so.

Busy but also yearning, Otto says: "People are sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Amanda Chantal Bacon, founder of Moon Juice, which has shops in Venice and Silver Lake, Calif., says people are taking their health into their own hands because they feel disappointed by conventional food and medicine.

"People have invested so much time and energy and hope in fat-free foods like SnackWells and \$200 eye creams and pills to make you happy in your marriage. We gave it a really good effort," she says, explaining that she became a juicer to guard her own health.

With names for concoctions like Glow, Purity or Goodness Greens, who wouldn't want to drink up? There are seasonal flavors, such as pumpkin spice and cranberry-cinnamon, and more exotic ones. Juice Served Here, which has a handful of stores in the L.A. area, offers charcoal lemonade; Moon Juice sells Silver Strawberry with Meztrace silver.

And with the possibility of greater energy, glowing skin, a clearer mind, a detoxified gut and more, who could refuse? Most people eat so little plant food, says Joe Cross, author of "The Reboot With Joe Juice Diet," "is it any wonder that when

they add these supercharged flood of nutrients that they feel better?"

But it's hard to prove that glowing skin, clearer thinking or resetting is the result of juicing. And there's plenty of disagreement about the value of a 16-ounce juice, even one made from up to 2 pounds of produce, compared with the food itself.

Lisa Sussman writes in

her book "Cold Press Juice Bible" that the "jury is still out on whether your body can absorb the nutrients more easily in liquid form or if there's any advantage in giving your digestive system a break from working on fiber."

Dana Hunnes, a senior dietitian at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, says she's asked often about juicing. "I think it's healthier to eat the food and get the fiber and other things," though she says there's likely no harm in jump-starting an effort to eat healthfully with a one-day juice regimen.

While many juices contain kale or spinach and other vegetables and herbs, they often also contain apples and other sweeter produce. And that can mean a fair amount of sugar.

To counter that, Sussman suggests juicing four servings of leafy or cruciferous vegetables for every one of fruit. (Of course, juicing at home takes a commitment ranging from \$100 to \$2,500 for the juicer.)

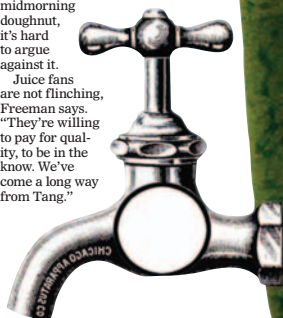
"Successful long-term juicers learn to liquefy greens and vegetables on a daily basis and to juice sweet-tasting fruits and the sweetest root vegetables... in moderation," Eric Helms writes in "The Juice Generation," which is also the name of his New York company.

Whether organic cold-pressed juices are healthful depends in part on the context, says Tricia Psota, a nutritionist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If juice is an addition to your diet, the calories can add up (a 16-ounce bottle typically has about 200 calories). So can the dollars. On the other hand, if a juice replaces your usual midmorning doughnut, it's hard to argue against it.

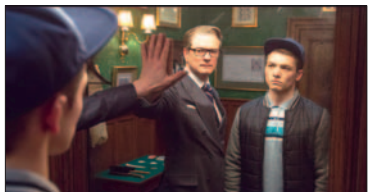
Juice fans are not flinching, Freeman says. "They're willing to pay for quality, to be in the know. We've come a long way from Tang."

The cold-pressed juice market is estimated at \$100 million a year.



The Miami Herald illustration

## MOVIES



By ANDREW A. SMITH

Tribune News Service

**“K**ingsman: The Secret Service” will rise or fall on its own merits at the box office. But its source material, the graphic novel “The Secret Service: Kingsman,” is good enough and different enough that it’s well worth your time either way.

“The Secret Service” (“Kingsman” was added to the title when the movie was named) is written by Mark Millar, well known to comics and movie audiences alike for “Kick-Ass” and “Wanted.” The art is by Dave Gibbons, lionized for “Watchmen.” In other words, it’s by A-listers.

Anyway, there’s a huge difference between movie and graphic novel, more than just the transposed name. For example, in the movie, super-spy Harry Hart (Colin Firth) and new recruit Gary “Eggsy” Unwin (Taron Egerton), whom Harry takes under his wing, don’t appear to be related. But in the book they are uncle and nephew, which is the crux of the story.

In the book, the Eggsy we first meet is a pretty pathetic character. He’s a 17-year-old dead-end kid living in a South London government hous-

ing project with an equally dead-end mother, who is perpetually on the dole and has spent her life hooking up with one drunken, violent lout after another. Eggsy spends his time with his also equally dead-end mates getting drunk and/or high, stealing cars and generally getting into trouble.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the socio-economic scale, we meet secret agent Jack London, a handsome, well-dressed man in his 50s who works for MI-6, has a license to kill and is on a first-name basis with the most important people in England. He is working on a baffling case in which scientists, movie directors, actors, science-fiction writers and other notable people are being kidnapped wholesale by parties unknown, for reasons unknown.

(And, yes, the character’s name is Jack London, the same as the author of “The Call of the

IN THE BOOK, THE EGGSY WE FIRST MEET IS A PRETTY PATHETIC CHARACTER. HE’S A 17-YEAR-OLD DEAD-END KID LIVING IN A SOUTH LONDON GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECT.

# ‘KINGSMAN’

New film based on graphic novel ‘The Secret Service’ a world away from book

Wild” and “White Fang,” among others. “Kingsman” checks several other famous names in adventure fiction also, including a certain Mr. Bond, whose spirit London is certainly channeling.)

As it happens, London is Eggsy’s uncle. Eggsy and his mother, Sharon, think Jack is a police investigator of credit-card theft. Nevertheless, they’re aware his ID is a get-out-jail-free card, so when Eggsy gets into trouble — again — Sharon calls Uncle Jack to get him out of the pokey.

It is here we see the dysfunctional family dynamic in play. Jack is a disapproving, personal-responsibility-believing stiff-neck,

while Sharon is a blame-everyone-else, irresponsible layout. Eggsy, of course, is the footballer they (figuratively) kick back and forth. The argument they have here is clearly one they’ve had many times.

But something changes this time. It dawns on Jack that his aloof approach to Eggsy — essentially a relationship by Christmas card — is partly to blame for the lad’s rootlessness. And he decides to change things — dramatically.

Here the movie and book intertwine, as Jack enrolls Eggsy in, essentially, spy school. “This is your home for the next three years,” Jack says as he drops Eggsy off at the training complex in Gosport. “It’s not like a film or a television show, where someone gets drafted and immediately knows everything. We’re going

to teach you how to shoot properly, how to fly planes, how to do stunts in any kind of car and bring a woman to orgasm every single time.”

“Every bugger thinks they’re good in bed,” rimes in Training Officer Rupert Greaves, the “Q” of the book, “but we’re going to cover the next six months on the second G-spot alone.” Greaves and Jack mention some other subjects: medicine, physics, ballistics, languages, kung fu, botany, boxing.

Oddly, Eggsy has some advantages over his posh classmates arising from his

deprived childhood. He’s knowledgeable and instinctively good at anything resembling the video games he has played obsessively, including firearms, piloting aircraft, observation, surveillance and, of course, grand theft auto. Also, he’s pretty good at street-fighting. “The Eton Boxing Club,” observes Greaves, “hardly compares to fighting the local police every night.” So Eggsy’s at the top in his class in those areas, which is a good thing, because it’s the only thing keeping him from washing out. He’s at the bottom of his school class in all those areas that have to do with socio-economic class. Not only does Eggsy not know which wine to choose at dinner, but his conversational skills are minimal, his choice of clothes tuggish and his understanding of women nonexistent.

That makes for a lot of funny fish-out-of-water scenes, but Millar doesn’t settle for cheap laughs. Eggsy’s ignorance — and his awareness of it — quickly segues into pathos. Eggsy’s humiliation is pretty familiar turf for anyone who’s ever felt inadequate or laughed at for being out of step with the crowd... which is pretty much all of us.

Oddly, the villain of the piece shares some of Eggsy’s faults. Unlike the movie’s villain, Richmond Valentine (a lisping Samuel L. Jackson), the graphic novel’s bad guy is, as described by Uncle Jack, a tech savant who “is a billionaire by 22, but

still an enormous social reject.” And one of his personality flaws is an inability to relate properly to his girlfriend. But, unlike Eggsy, he is far from sympathetic, because his master plan — involving the deaths of 5 billion people — is monstrous.

Cheap laughs come into play here, too, as our tech guru is forever bestowing on his henchmen nicknames they hate — and is completely unaware of their discomfort. He calls the guy with the prosthetic legs “Gazelle,” for example, and labels the guy with the eye patch “Cyclops.” In fact, Gazelle calls him on it, saying it’s “insensitive” and “making fun of a guy’s disability.”

Gazelle, by the way, is one of the few characters who makes the transition to the movie, albeit with the wit removed and his sex changed. So the film is not going to be a bit like the graphic novel, outside of the broad strokes of a working-class lad learning to be a super-spy and being challenged by a Bond-style supervillain.

Which you may or may not enjoy. But the graphic novel is certain to leave you shaken, and/or stirred.

**Top left: Colin Firth and Taron Egerton, right, star in “Kingsman: The Secret Service.”**

20TH CENTURY FOX/AF



Eggy, a former working-class wastrel, enjoys his new look as a Kingsman.



## MOVIES



Harry "Galahad" Hart (Colin Firth, left), an impeccably suave spy, helps Eggsy (Taron Egerton, right) turn his life around by trying out for a position with a top-secret independent intelligence organization in "Kingsman: The Secret Service."

# 'Kingsman' star Egerton joins British spy ranks

By BOB STRAUSS

Daily News

**"K**ingsman: The Secret Service" is a fond tribute to British gentleman spy shows of the 1960s, a satiric send-up of James Bond, television's "The Avengers" and the like, and a sometimes ultraviolent update of the durable subgenre.

It's also the movie debut of Taron Egerton, a 25-year-old Welsh actor whose working-class-delinquent character, Gary "Eggsy" Unwin, is mentored by the Kingsman organization's ultra-suave and effective operative Harry "Galahad" Hart (Colin Firth).

"I was very, very lucky," Egerton says. "It transformed my life, really, in a really brilliant way. I've had an extraordinary set of experiences making this film, and as a result of it. It's been wonderful."

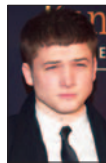
"Kingsman" was conceived when director Matthew Vaughn approached comic book writer Mark Millar with the idea on the set of his previous adaptation of one of Millar's graphic novels, "Kick-Ass." Vaughn and screenwriter Jane Goldman worked out movie ideas while Millar and artist Dave Gibbons ("Watchmen") created the book.

Along with Egerton and Oscar-winner Firth, the movie features Samuel L. Jackson as the megalomaniacal cyber-billionaire named Valentine; dancer Sofia Boutella as Gazelle, his murderous henchwoman equipped with blades for legs; "Ip-cess File" alum Michael Caine as the Kingsman organization's snobby leader Arthur; and "The Imitation Game's" Mark Strong as Merlin, the independent spy outfit's top trainer and gadget guru.

Egerton indeed had to undergo extensive training to fit in with the multigenerational cast of British screen agents.

"There was an enormous amount, and I had a relatively short time to do it because of how late in the process I was cast," says the actor who nearly drowned, skydives and parkours in the movie along with the expected guns, blades and fists business.

"There was martial arts training, fight choreography, physical training to get myself in shape, weapons training. There really was a lot to be able to take part



**'I was very, very lucky. It transformed my life, really, in a really brilliant way.'**

**Taron Egerton**  
on being cast in his debut film, "Kingsman: The Secret Service"

in the percentage of the stunt work Matthew wanted me to be involved in. The fighting that Colin and I did was everything aside from what the insurance wouldn't allow us to do.

"You see a lot more of the actors performing stunts than I believe is usual unless you're Tom Cruise," Egerton notes.

Egerton's climactic confrontation with Gazelle is among the most astonishing of "Kingsman's" over-the-top action sequences.

"Sofia wore fluorescent green socks that came up to her knees," Egerton says of how his co-star had to be attended in order to appear to have prosthetic legs.

"While we were making the film, I just couldn't understand how the balance would work with the CGI, how that would match having metal lower legs. But it worked so good. We would fight and they would make allowances to cut the legs off, and where they were extendable in the world of the film. I essentially just defended against her shins."

As for the gentleman part of Egerton's education, the Kingsman agents' bespoke suits (bulletproof, of course) and perfectly lethal accessories played their part. But nothing does the job like a living, breathing example of English manners at their finest, personified by Firth.

"I really wasn't sure what to expect; I was very familiar with Colin's work, but I hadn't seen much of him in interviews," Egerton explains. "I think you can be forgiven for thinking, if having watched 'The King's Speech' or 'A Single Man,' that he's not the most chatty chap. I realized immediately that that was a total misconception on my part. Colin is friendly and warm and caring in the extreme. I don't want to seem presumptuous, but I think it's safe to say that we really hit it off."

## Espionage chic: 'Kingsman' collection based on spy film

By JESSICA MOAZAMI

Chicago Tribune

**G**uys, it's time to keep calm, carry on and suit up.

Online men's retailer MR PORTER has launched a new 60-piece menswear collection based on the feature film "Kingsman: The Secret Service." The film stars Colin Firth and Michael Caine as sharply dressed international spies.

Created exclusively for MR PORTER, the collection features clothing and accessories from the film. Its costume designer, Arianne Phillips, created the wardrobe, including razor-sharp double-breasted pinstripe suits, a gray wool military V-neck sweater with suede shoulder details and a midnight navy velvet smoking jacket, all produced for MR

PORTER by Cheshire Bespoke tailoring. Phillips also picked classic British menswear brands to partner with for the accessories, including Cutler and Gross eyewear, pocket squares from Drake's, Mackintosh outerwear and Turnbull & Asser shirting.

A handmade bridle-leather attache case from Swaine Adeney Brigg rounds out the collection. Inspired by Savile Row tailoring, the wardrobe from the film echoes the renewed appreciation of the classic British gentleman's attire.

The Kingsman collection is available at MRPORTER.com, with prices from \$95 to \$2,495.

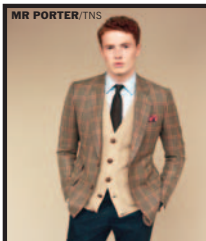
The 60-year-old Italian lingerie brand La Perla, traditionally known for its elegant women's lingerie, is launching its first full menswear collection. La Perla designer Emiliano Rinaldi has cre-

ated a mix-and-match collection of luxe loungewear and beachwear with a male point of view.

The sporty beachwear collection includes surf shorts emblazoned with sea creature prints, long-sleeve mesh polos and mesh tanks. The relaxed loungewear collection in mostly natural shades includes karate-style robes in graphic red or black gingham that can be layered over cashmere T-shirts, nightshirts, long johns or billowing pajama bottoms.

A small group of casual shoes completes the collection, including woven two-tone leather slip-on sneakers, iridescent fabric biker boots and woven leather sandals.

The men's collection starts at \$500 and is available this month at La Perla boutiques nationwide and at laperla.com.



Clockwise from top left: MR PORTER single-breasted brushed-wool checked blazer; La Perla mesh polo and swim trunks; La Perla slip-on leather sneaker; MR PORTER velvet smoking jacket



## BOOKS

# What do 500 dates feel like?

## Humorist Mark Miller shares highlights, lowlights of post-divorce dating life

By LEANNE ITALIE  
The Associated Press

**M**ark Miller has survived nearly 20 years of online dating since his 1995 divorce, yet he still has a smile on his face.

There's much to hate about the process, the Los Angeles-based humorist said in a recent interview, but he refuses to despair as he continues his hunt for true love. One thing that DOES burn him out, though, is how so much dating advice seems skewed to women.

That's why he decided to share his quest for ever after in a collection of essays called "500 Dates," in time for that ultimate date night, Valentine's Day.

Miller, 62, isn't shy about poking fun at himself. He describes a dating disaster with accountability he purchased entirely from a 99-cent store. He's had sex way too soon after meeting someone, given up prematurely on relationships, stayed in relationships beyond their expiration dates



and coveted his neighbor's wife.

Conversely, one date showed up in her forest ranger uniform. Another admitted she was 15 years older than advertised in her dating profile, and a third made it clear that she found dating so soul-draining that he was her last-ditch

attempt before she packed it in for ever. It didn't work out.

A conversation with Mark Miller about finding love online:

**So how many dates are you up to now?**  
The 500 in the title is underestimating it. It would probably be closer to 750 if I was going to be honest about it. During that time I've found maybe seven fairytale endings that ranged from seven months to four years. I'm still looking.

**How has happily ever after changed in the 21st century? You have a chapter where you write: "And they lived apart happily ever after is the new fairytale ending."**

I think that absence does make the heart grow fonder in many ways. I've spoken to a lot of people who date regularly and only see each other once a week. It's become more special, more date-like to them. There is such a thing as living together happily ever after but it doesn't happen for a lot of people, especially in this day and age.

**Do men suffer from a lack of dating advice?**

I think men are less prone to asking for that advice. They have more of a "I can do it myself," more of a macho thing going on whereas women are more open. If you do a search for dating books you'll find most of them are written either by women or for women. I think there was a void for men in that regard.

**What was your worst date?**

When I showed up and the woman didn't

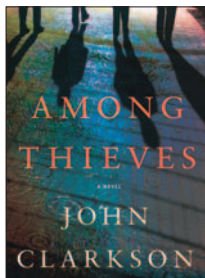
show up. The next day I called her up and she said she didn't feel like it, so she didn't. That's the ultimate worst date, when the woman doesn't show up, or when she shows up and she insults you.

**You write about how the first date shouldn't be about romance. What should it be about?**

The first date should be about connection, establishing some common ground and making sure your personalities are in sync. It's a mistake not to establish the friendship first.

**What's your best advice for men who are jumping into the online dating pool for the first time?**

I would say not to get discouraged too quickly. I've spoken to a lot of men who have had one or two or three bad experiences and as a result it turned them off to online dating. Develop a sense of reality and optimism and understand that things not working out is the norm so it will make you appreciate it all the more if things do work out.



### Among Thieves

John Clarkson

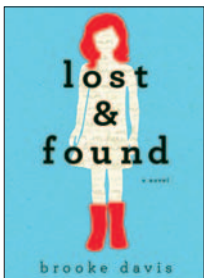
James Beck runs an off-the-grid saloon in a "ramshackle building" in Brooklyn, N.Y. Beck has assembled a far-flung crew of ex-cons, many of whom he met while in prison before his conviction for first-degree manslaughter was overturned.

Beck's friend Manny Guzman makes business promises when he wants to avenge his cousin Olivia Sanchez. Sanchez was a compliance officer at a Wall Street investment fund before she was attacked by Alan Crane, an out-of-control trader who broke her fingers and had her blackballed from the financial industry. Sanchez says that she was trying to make sure that Crane wasn't breaking any laws.

Beck plans to get justice for Sanchez while keeping himself and his crew as invisible as possible. But he makes a formidable enemy in Leonid Markov, a violent Russian arms dealer who is Crane's main client and who may have a link to the U.S. military.

John Clarkson's strong storytelling in "Among Thieves," coupled with his affinity for complex characters, makes Beck and his crew worth rooting for.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP



### Lost & Found

Brooke Davis

Brooke Davis' debut novel, "Lost & Found," begins with 7-year-old Millie Bird, who has recently lost her father, being abandoned by her grieving mother in a department store. Millie befriends Karl the Touch Typist, a widower on the lam from his nursing home, and Agatha Pantha, an 82-year-old widow who hasn't spoken to anyone in the seven years since her husband's death, and the three set off to find Millie's mother.

The story is told through these three voices in alternating sections, which at times serves to strengthen the characters' connection and at other makes the narrative feel choppy and disjointed. No sooner are we into one character's head than Davis moves to a different voice, and perhaps this is meant to lend support to the novel's themes of loss and survival. The emotion threaded through Davis' story of loss and grief and hope is real. Davis' writing is strongest with Millie, in the way she makes sense of her father's death and the way she weighs that loss against her mother's actions. It is Millie who kept me reading.

—Michelle Scheraga/AP



### Crash & Burn

Lisa Gardner

Lisa Gardner delivers another emotional thriller with her latest novel, "Crash & Burn."

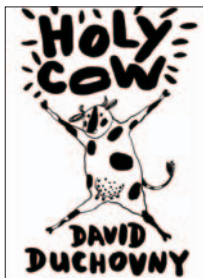
Nicky Frank survives a horrendous car crash. When the authorities arrive and she's being taken away in an ambulance, Frank begs the medics and police officers to find her daughter, Vero. Authorities begin to question her story when a tracking dog can find no evidence of anyone else being in the car at the time.

Then her husband tells them the couple doesn't have a daughter and Frank has created the memory due to a rare brain injury she sustained after falling down some stairs months earlier. Her illness is called post concussive syndrome, and her delusions seem to be getting worse.

As the police dig further into Frank's life, they realize the couple's stories don't add up. The car crash might have been deliberate, and Nicky has had an unlikely number of accidents. Who is telling the truth, and what is the lie?

Just when the reader figures out what's going on, Gardner takes that revelation and turns it into a surprise or shock.

—Jeff Ayers/AP



### Holy Cow

David Duchovny

The actor known for playing Fox Mulder on the TV series "The X-Files" and Hank Moody on the comic show "Californication" shows his comic side with "Holy Cow," a tale of Elsie the cow.

Elsie enjoys life on the farm, and her day consists of being milked, eating and gossiping with the other cows out in the field. One day she and a fellow bovine realize they have developed an interest in the bulls, and they hatch an idea to visit the bulls when the farmer leaves the gate open after a milking.

That evening the two of them head over to the bulls. Elsie's curiosity takes her toward the farmhouse, and there she witnesses on the Box God images of what happens to cows that involves people eating them. Traumatized, she starts to dream about how to avoid a similar fate. When she learns that cows are revered in India, she begins to concoct a plan to travel there. Elsie, a turkey named Tom and a pig named Jerry plot an escape.

"Holy Cow" is silly and fun from the opening page, but it would be even more amusing if read aloud.

—Jeff Ayers/AP



### The Boston Girl

Anita Diamant

Bestselling author Anita Diamant is back with her fifth novel, "The Boston Girl," a coming-of-age story narrated by Addie Baum.

At age 85, Baum is telling the story of her life to her 22-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her: "How did you get to be the woman you are today?" Divided into years as presented in an oral-history style, Baum's tale begins in the early 1900s when her Jewish Russian immigrant parents settle in Boston.

Her parents mistrust their new modern country and stubbornly cling to their old traditions. But Baum, the youngest of three daughters, and the only one born in America, is determined to make a life of her own, including finishing high school and dreaming of college and a career.

Baum's account of her day-to-day life is an exploration of the immigrant experience, love, marriage and friendship, plus many significant world events, including World Wars I and II, civil rights and the sexual revolution. Through it all, family and friendship remain resilient.

Celeste Williams  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## TELEVISION



“**‘Empire’  
is from  
the black  
experience  
and speaks  
to it.**”

— Carole Bell,  
professor at  
Northeastern University

Clockwise from left,  
Bryshere Gray, Teri  
Byers, Jussie Smollett,  
Terrence Howard and  
Taraji P. Henson are  
among the stars of  
the series “Empire.”  
It airs Saturdays on  
AFN-Spectrum.

FOX

# Authenticity of black experience brings huge success for ‘Empire’

By VERNE GAY  
Newsday

**B**ack in 1980, network TV had a eureka moment. “Roots: The Next Generations” had aired the year before on ABC, and, like its prequel, “Roots,” very nearly broke Nielsen, ergo: America was clearly ready for a drama that explored African-American life. “Roots” creator Alex Haley was called in, and so was Norman Lear—among TV’s most successful producers—and “Palmerstown, U.S.A.” was born.

While a very young Michael J. Fox was cast as a member of a white family, the focus here was to be on the black one: Haley wanted to get right down to his own roots, and reveal how he had grown up in the Depression-era South. Jonelle Allen (who would go on to star on “Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman”) and Bill Duke were cast, the CBS show launched and... was gone by the next year. America apparently wasn’t ready after all.

Series come and most go—that’s TV—but family dramas with predominantly black casts have almost never come to the Big Four networks at all, or at least until Fox’s “Empire”—the most successful network drama of the season—was launched.

African-American sitcoms, of course, have been commonplace. (UPN once programmed its entire

network around them.) Dramas with black leads, too, including a pair of hits on ABC right now (“Scandal,” “How to Get Away with Murder”). Otherwise, black dramas that explore black life, embrace black culture and offer what might otherwise be called an authentic portrait of what it’s like to be African-American right now head to cable... or nowhere.

Until “Empire,” that is.

The story of “Empire’s” success may be many things (notwithstanding perfect network timing), but it’s indisputably this: a shrewd re-calibration of one of network TV’s oldest tropes, the primetime soap, and a full embrace of black music, fashion, language, culture and aspiration.

Yes, “Empire” is conspicuously the “Black Dynasty,” as it’s been dubbed, but it’s much more than that.

“There’s a perceived authenticity and cultural specificity—it is an African-American show, very much so,” says Carole Bell, professor of communications studies at Northeastern University, and author of the forthcoming “The Politics of Interracial Romance in American Film.”

Bell says the show—about a thuggish record company executive (Terrence Howard), his ex-wife (Taraji P. Henson) and their contentious offspring—is “from the black experience and speaks to it. One way the show speaks to it is that both may be part of the 1 percent, but they’ve got deeply entrenched ties to all

different economic echelons, including the wife, who’s right out of prison. They’re moving up and doing what they have to do—they’re not people who went to Dartmouth and now work for a consulting firm.”

Bell says the show has also deftly navigated one crucial aspect of modern black life—“code-switching, or blending of vernacular and speaking styles of different cultures.”

“Everyone (in the audience) can relate to what you have to do to negotiate multiple spaces and still stay connected to family and friends, while speaking in a different way to operate in a world they aspire to.”

I also spoke with Eric Deggans about “Empire”—he’s NPR’s esteemed TV critic and has written widely on race and the media. “It’s writing to me that feels authentic, and about the way people live race in America,” he says.

“Empire’s” success,” he adds, “is about letting people who are not white tell their stories and let them tell the stories of their culture in the way they experience them. The things they are telling me they like the most about it comes right from their own experience.”

For TV, there are plenty of lessons from “Empire,” but Deggans explains that foremost among those is “what others have always said, which is when you make TV that looks like the world we live in, then you can find success.”

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## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Chinese tech sensation comes to US

By BRANDON BAILEY  
AND MICHAEL LIEBTK  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Xiaomi, one of China's hottest companies, is bringing its blend of cheap yet fashionable technology and crowd-pleasing antics to the U.S.

Although its smartphones won't be available here anytime soon, Xiaomi unveiled plans Thursday to test the U.S. market by selling inexpensive headphones and other accessories online. It plans to hook to the Internet-driven, customer-friendly model that has helped turn the company into a major player in mobile computing just five years after its founding.

Xiaomi — pronounced schwo-mee — has made a name in China by selling sleek gadgets at relatively low prices, using online sales and social media to keep marketing and distribution costs low. Some analysts have hailed the company as the Chinese equivalent of Apple, in part because of its intensely loyal fans.

There are some significant dif-

**‘We don’t have customers or users. They prefer to be addressed (as) fans.’**

Hugo Barra  
Xiaomi

ferences between the two companies' approach, though. While Apple tends to keep its future product plans secret, Xiaomi has invited customers to noosh on popcorn at company parties, chat on Xiaomi's online forums and review or make suggestions for new features, which Xiaomi frequently builds into its weekly software updates.

"We don't have customers or users. They prefer to be addressed (as) fans," said Hugo Barra, who defected from his job overseeing Google's Android products in 2013 to help plot Xiaomi's expansion outside China.

Barra was joined Thursday by Bin Lin, Xiaomi's co-founder and president, at the company's first major press event in the United

States.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Barra described the U.S. website as "an experimental launch" that will help the company raise awareness in the U.S., which in turn would help its profile in other countries. He said the company also is hoping to get the kind of feedback and ideas from U.S. consumers that the company gathers in China.

Xiaomi has emerged as a mobile-computing sensation with a line of smartphones sold in China, India and six other countries where much of the population still lacks Internet access. The company plans to expand into Brazil later this year. The phones offer a smattering of the sleek technology featured in fancier devices made

by Apple and Samsung, but they sell at much lower prices, ranging from about \$95 to \$280. In comparison, an iPhone 6 starts at \$650 without subsidies for signing two-year contracts.

While the iPhone still dominates the smaller luxury segment of China's market, Xiaomi's devices are being snapped up by the masses almost as quickly as the company starts accepting online orders. Xiaomi sold about 61 million phones last year, more than tripling its 2013 volume, Lin said.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 16)	\$1.1711
Dollar buys (Feb. 16)	60.8539
British pound (Feb. 16)	\$1.58
Japanese yen (Feb. 17)	117.00
South Korean won (Feb. 17)	1,072.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British (Pound)	1.5413
Canada (Dollar)	1.2453
China (Yuan)	6.2412
Denmark (Krone)	6.5233
Egypt (Pound)	7.6254
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.1411/0.8763
Hungary (Forint)	17.554
Israel (Shekel)	2.6851
Japan (Yen)	118.94
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2955
Norway (Krone)	1.5714
Philippines (Peso)	44.26
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7255
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3556
South Korea (Won)	1,099.92
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9306
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.60
Turkey (Lira)	2.4600

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchases by British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	1.00
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.58

## MARKET WATCH

Feb. 12, 2015

Dow Jones industrials	110.24
	17,972.38
Nasdaq composite	56.43
	4,857.61
Standard & Poor's 500	19.95
	2,088.48
Russell 2000	14.71
	1,216.27

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



## Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	72	42	Cir	Chattanooga	53	26	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	21	18	Cir	Louisville	34	26	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	17	14	Snow	Chicago	13	13	Cir	Fresno	72	45	Pcldy	Lubbock	74	36	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	22	3	Snow	Cincinnati	29	22	Snow	Goodland	47	32	Cldy	Macon	57	26	Cir
Albuquerque	66	34	Cir	Cleveland	17	15	Snow	Grand Junction	17	15	Snow	Medford	58	39	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	27	10	Snow	Colorado Springs	63	30	Pcldy	Great Falls	52	37	Cir	Memphis	55	34	Cir
Anchorage	34	23	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	57	25	Cir	Green Bay	59	50	Pcldy	Midland-Odesa	71	36	Cir
Asheville	48	20	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	57	30	Cir	Harrisburg	50	33	Cir	Milwaukee	12	10	Cir
Atlanta	53	28	Cir	Concord, N.H.	17	9	Snow	Hartford-Spfd	50	33	Snow	Minneapolis	5	-1	Cir
Atlantic City	39	13	Snow	Corpus Christi	75	51	Cir	Helena	57	36	Cldy	Missoula	46	29	Cldy
Austin	65	35	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	43	Cir	Honolulu	75	64	Cir	Mobile	75	64	Cir
Baltimore	35	17	Snow	Dayton	26	20	Snow	Houston	73	46	Cir	Montgomery	59	29	Cir
Baton Rouge	69	35	Cir	Daytona Beach	61	36	Cir	Huntsville	52	26	Pcldy	Nashville	41	26	Snow
Billings	37	3	Cir	Denver	61	35	Pcldy	Indianapolis	25	21	Cir	New Orleans	65	39	Cir
Birmingham	57	28	Cir	Des Moines	17	16	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	67	32	Cir	New York City	28	14	Snow
Bismarck	37	4	Cir	Detroit	21	15	Snow	Jacksonville	60	28	Cir	Newark	33	13	Snow
Boise	56	38	Cir	Duluth	3	-2	Cir	Juneau	40	36	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	48	19	Pcldy
Boston	25	-2	Snow	El Paso	69	42	Pcldy	Kansas City	33	26	Snow	North Platte	35	26	Cir
Bridgeport	27	5	Snow	Elkins	29	12	Snow	Key West	67	56	Cir	Northwest	35	26	Cir
Brownsville	74	55	Cldy	Erie	16	9	Snow	Knoxville	49	24	Pcldy	Omaha	24	20	Snow
Burlington	12	-4	Cir	Evansville	56	45	Cir	Lake Charles	70	43	Cir	Orlando	63	39	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	12	-11	Snow	Evansville	56	45	Cir	Lansing	17	15	Cir	Pasadena	50	26	Snow
Caribou, Maine	3	-13	Cir	Fairbanks	11	-8	Pcldy	Las Vegas	77	54	Cir	Pendleton	59	41	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	57	33	Cir	Fargo	-3	-12	Cir	Lexington	33	22	Cldy	Pesara	20	20	Snow
Charleston, W.Va.	57	26	Cir	Flagstaff	61	29	Cir	Lincoln	27	23	Snow	Philadelphia	38	17	Snow
Charlotte, N.C.	50	25	Cir	Flint	17	13	Snow	Little Rock	63	34	Cir	Phoenix	83	56	Pcldy
Chicago	13	13	Cir	Fort Smith	65	32	Cir	Los Angeles	85	58	Cir	Pittsburgh	24	15	Snow

</

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Thurs., 91, Santa Ana, Calif.  
Lo: Thurs., -28, International Falls, Minn.



# VIETNAM

AT

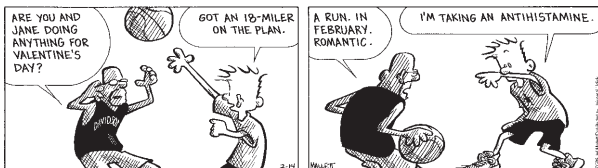
## 50

Explore **STARS AND STRIPES**® new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

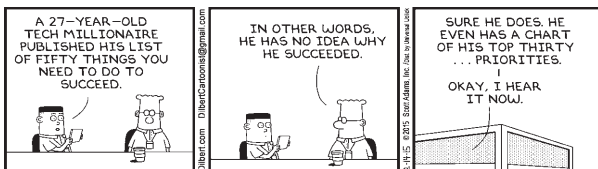
With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: [stripes.com/vietnam50](http://stripes.com/vietnam50)

Frazz



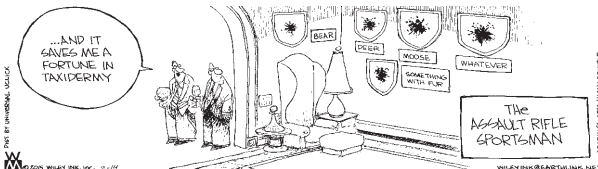
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



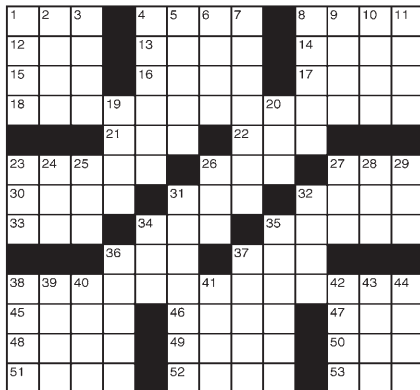
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Sessaw quorum
- 4 Mythical matchmaker
- 8 Highlander
- 12 Tin Man's need
- 13 Volcanic spillage
- 14 Knight's attendant
- 15 Omega precursor
- 16 Middle East gulf
- 17 Pinnacle
- 18 Concise
- 21 With 22-Across, what Johnny was to Frankie
- 22 See 21-Across
- 23 In a mild stupor
- 24 Under limit
- 27 Rx overseeing org.
- 30 Notion
- 31 Baltimore newspaper
- 32 Comestibles
- 33 Thither
- 34 Speed along
- 35 She turned men into swine
- 36 Fenway squad
- 37 U.S. soldiers
- 38 Make a long story short
- 45 Shrek, e.g.
- 46 Greek vowel
- 47 Auction action
- 48 Winged
- 49 Oklahoma city
- 50 Humpty Dumpty, e.g.
- 51 Category

### DOWN

- 2 Desire
- 3 Hodgepodge
- 4 Walking on air
- 5 Speed trap method
- 6 Microwave
- 7 Insomniac kid's visitor?
- 8 Make fresh salmon?
- 9 Part of a Supersuit
- 10 Curved molding
- 11 Libretto
- 19 Actress Perlman
- 20 Fool
- 23 Home improvement abbr.
- 24 Big bother
- 25 Buddhist sect
- 26 Golf target
- 27 Supporting
- 28 Sleepy companion
- 29 Citric beverage
- 31 Hippie era, with "The"
- 32 Pisces
- 34 Menagerie
- 35 Locust
- 36 Cubic meter
- 37 Be admitted
- 38 Brat's stocking stuffer
- 39 In pre-swam mode
- 40 Snare
- 41 Sharpen
- 42 What enablers do
- 43 Unuttered "alas"
- 44 Boldly provocative

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 2-14

### CRYPTOQUIP

RYN XMOMR KYMBVT DJIN JA  
JZZM CARDNAR PCRY J

OVJUIKDCRY. YN'K UMAUNXANT  
JOMBR YCK DNRJV YNJVRY.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASSUME WHEN A HISTORIC CAVALRY GENERAL WANTED DESSERT, HE'D PROBABLY HAVE CUSTER CREAM PIE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals H





## SPORTS BRIEFS/SKIING

# Vonn unwinds after world championships

By Pat Graham  
The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Lindsey Vonn traded in her ski boots for dancing shoes as she attended a party Thursday night where the guest of honor was none other than herself.

A chance to unwind with her world championships now complete since she's skipping the slalom. It's been an exhausting two weeks for Vonn that's produced one medal (bronze in the super-G), a tender right knee (thank the bumpy course for that) and a few tears as the pressure of wanting to do well in front of the hometown went on her.

"I tried my hardest," said Vonn, who arrived at a party in Vail, Colo., thrown to toast not only her medal at worlds but becoming the all-time winningest female World Cup racer earlier this season. "Even though I didn't get as many medals as everyone expected me to, I'm still happy with my performance."

Ever since a second knee surgery kept her out of the Sochi Games, Vonn's been looking forward to these world championships, treating it almost like the Olympics she didn't get to attend last February.

The Beaver Creek course appeared well-suited for Vonn, too. A home-slope advantage for sure.

Only, Vonn knew better. It was too twisty and technical. Not only that, but the course turned more and more icy and bumpy as the days wore on, which didn't sit well with her right knee.

"My meniscus has taken a pretty bad beating," Vonn said. "It's probably going to be like that forever. Thankfully I don't race on ice very often. It should be OK rest of season."

This course fit the likes of Tina Maze of Slovenia and Anna Fenninger of Austria way better — technical skiers who made themselves right at home on the tight terrain. That's why Vonn's not surprised Maze and Fenninger each have two gold medals



MARCO TROVATI/AP

Lindsey Vonn reacts at the finish line during the women's giant slalom competition at the alpine skiing world championships on Thursday in Beaver Creek, Colo.

and a silver so far.

"Those two can turn with the best of them," Vonn said. "I knew they were going to be big contenders. This isn't a gliders' downhill."

Still, Vonn insisted the hill wasn't in her head even if she struggled at times to find her rhythm.

"The icy conditions were just hard for

me," Vonn said. "I felt like in all the races, I was mentally on my game. I was ready and confident, from doing so well in the World Cups. Mind over matter didn't work. When I got on the ice, it didn't work." Vonn's last race of the championships was a 14th place finish in the giant slalom. She struggled in the first run before finding speed in the second, finishing 3.22 seconds behind Fen-

ninger's winning time.

When she finished her last run, Vonn blew kisses to the crowd. Even boyfriend Tiger Woods smiled as he watched from the sideline. If she had a mulligan, Vonn insisted she wouldn't have done anything different leading up to these championships.

"I maybe just wanted to do well too much," Vonn said.

## Briefly

# Manning meets with Elway, no decision yet

Wire reports

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — A person with knowledge of the meeting tells The Associated Press that Peyton Manning huddled with Broncos general manager John Elway on Thursday to talk about his future in football. No decision was announced on whether Manning would return in 2015 or retire.

Speaking to The AP on condition of anonymity because the meeting wasn't public, the person confirmed the meeting at the team's suburban Denver headquarters that was first reported by the Denver Post on Thursday night.

Manning has been mulling his future since the Broncos were bounced from the playoffs by his old team, the Indianapolis Colts, last month.

Elway told Manning he wanted him back and asked him not to make a rash decision.

In other NFL news: ■ Packers coach Mike McCarthy made it official Thursday, an-

nouncing that he is relinquishing his job calling plays for Aaron Rodgers and the rest of the Green Bay offense.

McCarthy is handing off the play-calling duties to Tom Clements, whom he promoted from offensive coordinator to associate head coach. Edgar Bennett was named offensive coordinator, while Bennett's responsibilities as the wide receivers coach were given to Alex Van Pelt, who'll now coach both quarterbacks and receivers.

■ Browns owner Jimmy Haslam acknowledged Wednesday during a 50-minute interview with beat writers that former All-Pro wide receiver Josh Gordon might never play for the team again.

Last week, the NFL banished Gordon for at least a year because he violated its substance-abuse policy again.

"We have the responsibility, ownership and management, to take great care of our players and get the most out of them," Haslam said. "We spent a tremendous amount of time on Josh — every-

body in the organization — and at a certain point in time, an individual has got to take care of themselves and do what's right, not just for themselves, and I said this after the [Dec. 28 season finale], but for the team, the coaches, the people in the building, the fans."

## Source: Royals, Herrera agree to 2-year deal

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Closer Aroldis Chapman and the Cincinnati Reds agreed to an \$8.05 million, one-year contract, just before the scheduled start of their salary arbitration hearing.

The right-hander, who turns 27 on Feb. 28, was 0-3 with a 2.00 ERA and 36 saves in 38 chances last year in his fifth season with the Reds. He struck out 106 in 54 innings and led the majors with an average of 17.67 strikeouts per nine innings. According to fangraphs.com, he was first in average fastball speed at 100.2 mph.

In other MLB news: ■ The Royals and reliever Kel-

vin Herrera have agreed on a \$4.15 million, two-year deal that avoids arbitration, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the deal will not be completed until Herrera passes a physical.

■ A person familiar with the negotiations says Rickie Weeks and the Seattle Mariners have agreed to a \$2 million, one-year contract.

Weeks can earn another \$2 million in performance bonuses plus additional award bonuses.

## Surgery 'very likely' for Knicks' Anthony

Carmelo Anthony's regular season probability is over, but he still plans to play one more time — Sunday's All-Star Game at the Garden.

Anthony said in an interview with ESPN Radio on Thursday that "it's very likely" he will shut it down after the All-Star Game and have surgery on his left knee.

In the same interview, Anthony said he will play Sunday "even if it's a few minutes."

■ In other NBA news: ■ Chicago Bulls guard Jimmy Butler plans to play in the NBA All-Star game, but has dropped out of the skills challenge because of a strained right shoulder.

Agent Happy Walters says Butler expects to play in the game on Sunday. A first-time All-Star, Butler is averaging 20.4 points and 5.8 rebounds.

## Attorney: Suspended Tennessee DB indicted

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The attorney for suspended Tennessee defensive back Michael Williams says his client has been indicted, nearly three months after he was identified as a subject of a rape investigation.

David Eldridge said Williams had turned himself in and was released on \$40,000 bond. Eldridge issued a statement saying Williams "is innocent of these

# NHL



Pittsburgh left wing David Perron scores on Ottawa goalie Robin Lehner during the shootout of Thursday's game in Ottawa, Ontario. Pittsburgh won 5-4.

## Roundup

# Senators rally, fall short in shootout loss to Pens

The Associated Press

OTTAWA — The only thing Sidney Crosby liked about this one was the final score.

David Perron scored the shoot-out winner to lift the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 5-4 victory over the Ottawa Senators on Thursday night. Crosby, with two goals, Kris Letang and Evgeni Malkin also scored for the Penguins, while Thomas Greiss made 29 saves.

It was a struggle for the Penguins, though. They blew a 3-0 lead and needed Perron to beat goaltender Robin Lehner in the shootout to get both points.

"I don't think it started right in the third," Crosby said of Pittsburgh's slippage. "I thought the second we weren't great as well. I think we had one shot in the second period. We didn't really set ourselves up for a good third."

And they didn't get one.

Down 3-0 to start the third period, the Senators made an impressive comeback to tie the game 4-4 late in the period. Mika Zibanejad, Mike Hoffman Mark Stone and Kyle Turris scored for the Senators, playing their first of a five-game homestand. Lehner, making his career-high seventh consecutive start, stopped 25 shots.

After struggling to beat Greiss, Zibanejad got Ottawa on the board after taking a nifty pass from Bobby Ryan.

Ryan picked up his second assist of the night as he and Hoffman worked a give-and-go, culminating with Hoffman's 18th of the season.

Crosby regained the two-goal lead for the Penguins as he spot-

ted a loose puck between Lehner's legs and pushed it in.

But Ottawa went on to score goals 13 seconds apart to tie the game. Stone took a pass from Turris in close to beat Greiss, then Turris scored against Greiss' pads to make it 4-4.

**Blues 6, Lightning 3:** Alexander Steen had a goal and two assists to help coach Ken Hitchcock move into sole possession of fourth place on the NHL wins list in host St. Louis victory over Tampa Bay.

Hitchcock's 693rd regular-season win broke a tie with Dick Irvin. The Blues coach only trails Joel Quenneville (739), Al Arbour (782) and Scotty Bowman (1,244).

**Islanders 3, Maple Leafs 2:** Anders Lee scored two goals, including the tiebreaker in the second period, and Jaroslav Halak made 32 saves for his 30th win of the season.

Lee scored in each of the first two periods, and Casey Cizikas added a goal for the Metropolitan Division-leading Islanders, who have won three straight and four of five.

**Ducks 2, Hurricanes 1:** Matt Beleskey had the go-ahead goal and an assist and visiting Anaheim snapped a three-game losing streak.

Francois Beauchemin and Beleskey scored 2:52 apart in the second period to help the Pacific Division leaders improve to 24-0-7 in one-goal games.

**Oilers 4, Canadiens 3 (OT):** Anton Lander scored at 1:47 of overtime to lift visiting Edmonton.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins' second

goal of the game tied it with 25 seconds left in regulation while Edmonton was playing with an extra attacker.

**Predators 3, Jets 1:** Rookie Filip Forsberg set a franchise record with his 19th goal this season and also had an assist and host Nashville earned its fourth straight win.

Forsberg topped the mark previously held by Alexander Radulov in 2006-07 with a power-play goal that put Nashville up 2-1 in the second period.

**Wild 2, Panthers 1:** Jason Pominville and Zach Parise each scored on assists from Mikko Koivu, and Devan Dubnyk made 26 saves. Host Minnesota improved to 9-1-2 in their past 12 games, all with Dubnyk in net.

Nick Bjugstad scored in his return home, but goalie Roberto Luongo fell to 3-10-2 in his career at Xcel Energy Center as the Panthers started a stretch of seven out of eight games on the road.

**Rangers 6, Avalanche 3:** Kevin Hayes had a goal and two assists and visiting New York survived a third-period rally.

Rick Nash scored his NHL-leading 34th goal and Cam Talbot stopped 26 shots for New York.

**Kings 5, Flames 3:** Tyler Tofoli scored in all three periods for his first NHL hat trick, Dwight King and Jordan Neen broke open a tie game with third-period goals.

Mason Raymond had two goals and David Jones also scored for the visiting Flames, who had won their three previous meetings this season with the defending Stanley Cup champions — all by one-goal margins.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Montreal	54	35	15	4	74	146	122		
Tampa Bay	57	37	14	6	74	184	154		
Detroit	53	33	13	7	71	156	134		
Boston	54	28	19	7	63	142	136		
Florida	54	27	20	7	61	134	149		
N.Y. Islanders	53	21	22	10	52	145	150		
Toronto	56	22	23	11	55	107	173		
Buffalo	55	16	36	3	35	103	191		

Metropolitan Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
N.Y. Islanders	55	30	18	7	67	173	153		
Pittsburgh	55	32	15	8	72	160	139		
W. Rangers	55	30	17	8	68	157	137		
Washington	55	29	16	10	68	162	139		
Philadelphia	54	27	19	8	61	157	157		
New Jersey	54	21	24	9	51	122	148		
Columbus	52	22	26	4	49	135	161		
Carolina	53	17	37	7	41	117	141		

### Western Conference

Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Nashville	55	37	12	6	80	167	130		
St. Louis	55	30	15	4	70	176	136		
Chicago	55	33	18	4	70	167	129		
Winnipeg	57	28	19	10	66	155	149		
Minnesota	54	27	20	7	61	147	146		
Dallas	54	23	21	10	58	137	175		
Colorado	55	22	22	11	55	140	158		

Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Anaheim	56	35	14	7	77	166	155		
San Jose	56	28	20	8	64	158	158		
Vancouver	53	30	15	2	63	148	140		
Calgary	55	30	22	3	63	159	142		
Los Angeles	54	29	20	5	60	149	147		
Arizona	55	28	20	7	47	126	180		
Edmonton	56	21	25	9	51	129	184		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Thursday's games**  
Pittsburgh 5, Ottawa 4-50  
N.Y. Islanders 3, Toronto 2  
Anaheim 2, Carolina 1  
Edmonton 4, Montreal 3, OT  
St. Louis 6, Tampa Bay 3  
Nashville 3, Winnipeg 1  
Minnesota 2, Florida 1  
N.Y. Rangers 6, Colorado 3  
Los Angeles 5, Calgary 2

**Friday's games**  
Philadelphia at Columbus  
New Jersey at Chicago  
Florida at Dallas  
San Jose at Arizona  
Boston at Vancouver

**Saturday's games**  
Edmonton at Ottawa  
Toronto at Montreal  
Winnipeg at Detroit  
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders  
New Jersey at Nashville  
Carolina at Minnesota  
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary  
Washington at Los Angeles  
St. Louis at Chicago  
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo  
Washington at Anaheim  
Tampa Bay at San Jose

### Thursday

**Islanders 3, Maple Leafs 2**  
Toronto 0 2 0-2  
N.Y. Islanders 1 1 0-3

**First Period—**1, N.Y. Islanders, Lee 17, 1:17; 2, N.Y. Islanders, Clackson 6 (McDonald, Martin), 4:03.  
**Second Period—**3, Toronto, Panik 9 (Holzer, Komarov), 1:32; 4, Toronto, Smith 2 (Panik, Bozak), 6:08; 5, N.Y. Islanders, Lee 18 (Bailey, Hearnick), 12:02.

**Shots on Goal—**Toronto 8-12-14-34. N.Y. Islanders 11-15-22-48.  
**Power-play opportunities—**Toronto 0 of 1; Carolina 1 of 2.  
**Goals—**Toronto, Bernier 16-17-4 (41 shots-38 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Halak 30-15 (34-22).

A-15-388 (16,170). T-2:28.

**Ducks 2, Hurricanes 1**  
Anaheim 0 2 0-2  
Carolina 0 1 0-1

**First Period—**1, Carolina, Semin 11 (Liles, Semin), 9:40 (pp); 2, Anaheim, Beleskey 4 (Suter, Perry), 14:38; 3, Anaheim, Beleskey 21, 17:30.  
**Second Period—**1, Anaheim, 5-8-4-17. Carolina 14-15-36.  
**Power-play opportunities—**Anaheim 0 of 1; Carolina 1 of 2.  
**Goals—**Anaheim, Gibson 3-2-0 (36 shots-26 saves). Carolina, Ward 13-19-4 (17-15).

A-11,991 (18,680). T-2:22.

**Oilers 4, Canadiens 3 (OT)**  
Edmonton 0 2 1 1-4  
Montreal 1 1 1 0-3

**First Period—**1, Montreal, Thomas 1 (Dion, Gauthier), 1:25.  
**Second Period—**2, Montreal, Galchenyuk 16 (Subban, Plekanec), 1:06; 3, Edmonton, Hendricks 7 (Hendry, Fennell), 4:04; 4, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 1 (Gauthier), 11:30.  
**Third Period—**5, Montreal, Paillet 25 (Subban, Markov), 1:47; 6, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 14 (Edmond, Parcell), 10:59.

**Interim—**7, Edmonton, Lander 3 (Klefbom, Yakupov), 1:47.  
**Shots on Goal—**Edmonton 19-15-13-37. Montreal 11-9-15-37.  
**Power-play opportunities—**Edmonton 0 of 4; Montreal 1 of 2.  
**Goals—**Edmonton, Fasth 6-14-2 (26 shots-16 saves). Montreal, Tarkenton 5-2 (38-34).

A-21,286 (21,273). T-2:33.

### Penguins 5, Senators 4 (SO)

Pittsburgh 2 1 1 0-5  
Ottawa 1 1 1 0-4

**Pittsburgh won shootout 1-0**  
**First Period—**1, Pittsburgh, Letang 10 (Bennett, Suter), 12:1; 2, Pittsburgh, Crosby 18 (Scuderi), 9:57.

**Second Period—**3, Pittsburgh, Malkin 21 (Cormeau, Letang), 13:52.

**Third Period—**3, Pittsburgh, Zibanejad 14 (Ryan, Ceci), 5:09 (pp); 5, Ottawa, Hoffman 18 (Ryan, Karlsson), 9:50; 6, Pittsburgh, Crosby 16 (Stamkos, 14:53; 7, Pittsburgh, Stone 13 (Turris, Karlsson), 15:51; 8, Ottawa, Turris 11 (Styba, Borowick), 16:04.

**Shootout—**Pittsburgh 1 (Perron, G. Crosby NG), Ottawa 0 (Ryan NG, Turris NG).

**Missed Penalty Shot—**Ryan, OT, 11:27 second.

**Shots on Goal—**Pittsburgh 11-6-8-4-29. Ottawa 6-10-15-11-33.

**Power-play opportunities—**Pittsburgh 0 of 1; Ottawa 1 of 3.

**Goals—**Pittsburgh, Greiss 6-3-3 (33 shots-29 saves). Ottawa, Lehner 8-11-3 (29-25).

A-18,826 (19,153). T-2:47.

**Blues 6, Lightning 3**  
St. Louis 2 3 1-6  
Tampa Bay 1 0 0 1-3

**First Period—**1, St. Louis, Jaskin 8 (Steen), 1:50; 2, St. Louis, Jaskin 8 (Steen), 6:47 (pp).

**Second Period—**3, Tampa Bay, Johnson 20 (Kucharski, Stralman), 10:24; 4, St. Louis, Steen 19 (Backes), 12:15; 5, St. Louis, Backes 19 (Steen), 14:51.

**Third Period—**1, St. Louis, Stastny 11 (Berglund, 14:11; 6, St. Louis, Stastny 11 (Berglund, 14:11; 7, St. Louis, Stastny 11 (Berglund, 14:11).

**Shots on Goal—**Tampa Bay, Connolly 11 (Filippula), 17:28.

**Third Period—**8, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 2 (Kellom, Stralman), 6:31; 9, St. Louis, Tarsanenko 28, 18:55 (en).

**Shots on Goal—**St. Louis 17-17-10-44. Tampa Bay 6-14-9-29.

**Power-play opportunities—**St. Louis 1 of 3; Tampa Bay 1 of 1.

**Goals—**St. Louis, Elliott 17-7-2 (29 shots-26 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 27-17 of 30 (29-23).

A-18,926 (19,204). T-2:28.

**Predators 3, Jets 1**  
Winnipeg 1 0 0-1  
Nashville 1 1 0-1

**First Period—**1, Nashville, Weber 1 (Josi, Forsberg), 4:47 (pp); 2, Winnipeg, Frolik 1 (Forsberg), 11:42 (pp).

**Second Period—**3, Nashville, Forsberg 19 (Josi, Weber), 3:38 (pp).

**Third Period—**4, Nashville, Neel 19 (Forsberg), 16:10.

**Shots on Goal—**Winnipeg 9-11-13-33. Nashville 11-16-6.

**Power-play opportunities—**Winnipeg 0 of 5; Nashville 1 of 3.

**Goals—**Winnipeg, Pavelec 13-12-7 (26 shots-23 saves). Nashville, Rinne 32-19 (33-32).

A-16,135 (17,113). T-2:31.

**Wild 2, Panthers 1**  
Florida 0 1 0-1  
Minnesota 1 1 0-2

**First Period—**1, Minnesota, Pominville 19 (Liles, Clackson), 11:04.

**Second Period—**2, Minnesota, Parise 2 (Liles, Clackson), 11:04; 3, Minnesota, Bjugstad 19 (Jokinen, Hayes), 9:53.

**Third Period—**None.

**Shots on Goal—**Florida 11-8-8-27. Minnesota 9-9-5-23.

**Power-play opportunities—**Florida 0 of 5; Minnesota 1 of 2.

**Goals—**Minnesota, Toivola 20-14-9 (23 shots-21 saves). Minnesota, Dubnyk 18-6-15 (34-22).

A-19,055 (17,954). T-2:33.

**Rangers 6, Avalanche 3**  
N.Y. Rangers 1 2 3-6  
Colorado 0 0 1-3

**First Period—**1, N.Y. Rangers, 10-3-3 (Hayes, McDonough), 16:30.

**Second Period—**3, Colorado, Landeskog 11 (Mitchell, 1:47; 3, Colorado, Landeskog 11 (Mitchell, 1:47; 3, Colorado, Landeskog 11 (Mitchell, 1:47).

**Third Period—**5, Colorado, 10-4-7 (11 goals, Duchene), 10:44; 7, N.Y. Rangers, Ruppel 12 (Goss, Angello), 12:11; 8, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 4 (Miller), 15:42; 9, N.Y. Rangers, Ruppel 12 (Goss, Angello), 15:42.

**Shots on Goal—**N.Y. Rangers 13-10-8-31. Colorado 10-15-15-35.

**Power-play opportunities—**N.Y. Rangers 1 of 2; Colorado 0 of 3.

**Goals—**N.Y. Rangers, C. Talbot 7-5-2 (26 shots-26 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 14-14-7 (27-23).

A-17,378 (18,007). T-2:31.

**Kings 5, Flames 3**  
Calgary 0 2 1-3  
Los Angeles 1 1 1-3

**First Period—**1, Los Angeles, Toifoli 16 (Carter), 3:16.

**Second Period—**4, Calgary, D.Jones 10 (Brodeur, Wideman), 3:00 (pp); 3, Calgary, Ray 15 (Stastny, Toifoli), 11:30; 4, Los Angeles, Toifoli 17 (Muzzin, Carter), 18:41.

**Third Period—**5, Los Angeles, King 9 (Bennett, 12:05; 6, Los Angeles, Toifoli 13 (Boughie), 6:44; 7, Los Angeles, Toifoli 16 (Stastny), 8:18; 8, Calgary, Raymond 11 (Gaudreau), 12:59.

**Shots on Goal—**Calgary 6-4-8-18. Los Angeles 15-19-15-49.

**Power-play opportunities—**Calgary 1 of 3; Los Angeles 0 of 2.

**Goals—**Calgary, Hiller 18-16-2 (40 shots-16 saves). Los Angeles, Toifoli 16-15-10 (18-15).

A-18,230 (18,118). T-2:32.



## NHL



Ducks goaltender Frederik Andersen, right, keeps an eye on the puck as teammate Hampus Lindholm, left, battles with the Hurricanes' Eric Staal on Feb. 3 in Anaheim, Calif.

KEVIN SULLIVAN, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

# Frederik the Great?

## Anaheim's Andersen making mark in goal

By GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

**W**HEN Frederik Andersen first started playing hockey in Denmark, he had a wicked temper. He shattered sticks, screamed and threw things — and that was just after allowing a bad goal in practice.

"I kind of grew out of that, but I was pretty fiery," Andersen said in his usual calm monotone. "I'm just a really bad loser. I still have that. It still happens sometimes."

Such tales are barely believable these days to anybody who has met the soft-spoken, red-haired goalie on an incredible career path with the Anaheim Ducks.

Just over a year after his NHL debut, Andersen is a prolific winner for the powerful Ducks. He won 49 of his first 66 starts in Anaheim, piling up victories at a rate unmatched by a young goalie since Bill Durnan, Montreal's four-time Vezina Trophy winner from the 1940s.

Sure, the Ducks are an elite team, yet more than half of their wins have been by one goal. The NHL's first and only Danish-born goalie

has calmly kept Anaheim on top of the league standings while the club employed a carousel of defenses over its first 50 games.

Nothing seems to rattle Andersen — not now that he has his temper under control and his focus on a Stanley Cup.

"He's the best puck-handling goalie I've ever played with, and he wants to be a part of the team's defense," defenseman Ben Lovejoy said. "He's a pleasure to play in front of."

Andersen has seized the job from three formidable contenders: Jonas Hiller, who had been the Ducks' starting goalie since 2008, capable backup Viktor Fasth, and rookie John Gibson, the touted prospect who made an impressive NHL debut late last season.

A year after Andersen mostly sat and watched Hiller, he is firmly in charge of the Ducks' crease. Hiller signed with Calgary as a free agent last summer, and Gibson is in the AHL after a lengthy injury absence allowed Andersen to consolidate his role.

After Gibson got hurt, Andersen made 20 consecutive starts in a streak ending in mid-December. He welcomed the work, reckoning he will have to make a similar stretch of starts if the Ducks make the deep playoff run they're anticipating.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Ducks center Ryan Getzlaf, left, and goalie Frederik Andersen celebrate the overtime victory over the Hurricanes.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Rick Bowmen/AP

Utah forward Jordan Loveidge (21) goes to the basket as Stanford forward Michael Humphrey, rear, defends on Thursday in Salt Lake City.

## No. 11 Utah fends off Stanford

By KAREEM COPELAND  
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah coach Larry Krystkowiak was watching a college game Wednesday when his teenage son Cam pointed out the empty stands on TV. The conversation turned to how grateful they were to not have those issues.

The No. 11-ranked Utes were energized by a sold-out home crowd Thursday night and overcame a slow start to run away from Stanford 75-59 for the 16th consecutive win inside the Jon M. Huntsman Center.

"For these young men, that's the experience they need to have," Krystkowiak said. "There's a lot of pride from years past and it's just fun to be part of getting it kick-started again."

Delon Wright scored a game-high 15 points and grabbed five rebounds to lead Utah to victory. Dalin Bachynski finished with 13 points, while Jordan Loveidge and Brekott Chapman added 12 for the Utes (19-4, 9-2 Pac-12), who opened the second half with a 15-2 run to cruise past the Cardinal. The run was highlighted by seven consecutive points from Loveidge.

Anthony Brown led Stanford (6-8, 7-5) with 15 points, and Marcus Allen scored a career-high 13, including 10 in the first half.

Utah closed the first half with a 6-0 run, including two buzzer-beating baskets from Bachynski, to take a 33-27 lead into halftime. Stanford led 10-4 out of the gate with the help of four offensive rebounds, but Utah responded with a 17-5 run sparked by eight straight points from Chapman.

"The first half was kind of punch-counterpunch. We couldn't really get any momentum," Krystkowiak said. "The second half, it started with getting some stops and getting out in transition... I thought we were aggressive. I thought we maybe had a little bit more gas in our tank, pushing in transition and got to the foul line early. That kind of opened it up."

# Wiltjer, No. 3 Gonzaga cruise

## Bulldogs' forward leads team with 21

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS  
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Kyle Wiltjer scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as No. 3 Gonzaga routed Loyola Marymount 80-51 on Thursday night.

Przemek Karnowski and Byron Wesley each scored 11 points for Gonzaga (25-1, 13-0 West Coast), which has won 18 consecutive games. The Zags scored their first 20 points of the game.

David Humphries scored 11 points for Loyola Marymount (8-18, 4-10), which didn't make a field goal for the first 12 minutes to fall way behind early.

Gonzaga, whose only loss this season was at No. 7 Arizona, has won 39 consecutive home games, the nation's longest streak.

They are the first team in the nation to win 25 games.

Gonzaga, which leads the nation in field goal shooting at 53.2 percent, shot just 49 percent but ran away with the game. Loyola Marymount made just 29 percent of its field goal attempts (15 of 51). Gonzaga won the rebounding battle, 46-30.

Gonzaga took control early, with Wiltjer hitting a three-pointer and Wesley a layup in the opening seconds.

Loyola Marymount called a timeout barely a minute into the game, but it didn't help.

Gonzaga scored the first 20 points, as the Lions missed their first eight shots and committed six turnovers.

Loyola Marymount finally scored on Ayodeji Ebegbeyemi's free throw with 11:52 left in the first.

The Lions switched to a press, which slowed down the Zags' offense.

Gonzaga made 10 of its first 15 shots to build a 27-4 lead with 9:12 left in the first. All the Loyola points were on free throws.

After missing their first 12 attempts, the Lions finally got a field goal on Ebegbeyemi's short jumper with 7:57 left in the first. Wiltjer immediately replied with a three-



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

SMU's Canner Cunningham shoots between Houston defenders Eric Weary Jr. (23) and LeRon Barnes on Thursday in Houston. The Mustangs won 75-69.



YOUNG KWAN/AP

Loyola Marymount's Evan Payne, center, drives against Gonzaga's Gary Bell Jr. (5) and Kyle Wiltjer (33) during the first half on Thursday in Spokane, Wash. The Bulldogs routed the Lions 80-51 behind Wiltjer's 21 points and 10 rebounds.

pointer as the Zags took a 30-6 lead and the crowd chanted "mercy rule."

Gonzaga center Przemek Karnowski went down hard after a missed dunk late in the first, but he recovered to sink both free throws and steal a Loyola Marymount pass on the next possession.

Gonzaga led 44-15 at halftime, after shooting 57.7 percent. The Lions made just 3 of 25 field goals in the first half, for 12 percent. They missed all eight of their

three-point attempts.

The Lions shot better in the second, scoring the first seven points of the half — including a three-pointer by Chase Flint — to cut Gonzaga's lead to 44-22.

But Wiltjer scored nine points during a 12-6 Gonzaga run that pushed their lead to 56-28.

Kevin Pangos hit consecutive three-pointers to lift the Zags to a 66-37 lead.

The Lions did not threaten after that.

## No. 25 SMU gets by Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — After seeing their double-digit lead cut to four with 4 minutes left, SMU didn't panic because it had been here before and knew how to close things out.

Markus Kennedy scored 17 points, Nic Moore had 15 and the 25th-ranked Mustangs held off Houston 75-69 Thursday night.

Kennedy and Moore combined for 23 points in the second half as the Mustangs (20-5, 11-2 American Athletic Conference) extended their lead to 17 midway through the second half and fought off a furious Houston rally.

"We didn't do a good job of handling their late run," Kennedy said. "After the last TV timeout, we figured some things out. Me and Nic looked at the guys and told them that we have been here before. We have been in tough situations."

"We just got a tough road win last game. We know what it takes to win. That's why there was no let up. We had to just stay focus and keep our mindset right."

Ryan Manuel added 10 points for SMU, which moved into first place in the conference. The Mustangs shot 54 percent from

the field, including 58 percent in the second half.

"I think we are very fortunate to come out with a win, but it's a road win against a rival team," SMU coach Larry Brown said.

Jherrod Stiggers scored 17 points, LeRon Barnes added 14 points and 10 rebounds and Devonta Pollard added 13 points for the Cougars (9-14, 1-10), who shot 41 percent from the field and made 11 of 34 (32 percent) three-pointers.

"We just had unforced errors, but once we settled down and made a couple of our shots, I thought it was some good throws," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said. "LeRon Barnes might not have been the best player on the floor tonight but I thought he was absolutely the toughest player. He's a tough kid and he is a winner. I thought our guys fought."

After the Mustangs stretched the lead back to 13, the Cougars countered with a 12-3 spurt to pull to 68-64 on Pollard's alley-oop dunk with 4 minutes to go.

SMU hit 5 of 6 free throws in the final 2:39, and Moore hit a clutch jumper as time expired on the shot clock with 36 seconds left. The Cougars missed 6 of 8 shots and could get no closer than four.

## NBA

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

## Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	36	17	.679	—
Brooklyn	21	31	.404	14½
Boston	20	32	.385	15
Philadelphia	12	41	.226	24
New York	6	43	.120	26

## Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	43	11	.796	—
Washington	31	21	.611	10
Charlotte	22	30	.423	20
Miami	20	32	.385	20
Orlando	17	39	.304	27

## Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	36	17	.680	—
Cleveland	33	22	.600	1½
Memphis	31	24	.563	2
Detroit	21	33	.389	13
Indiana	21	33	.389	13

## Western Conference

## Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	39	14	.736	—
Houston	36	17	.679	3
Dallas	26	19	.575	4
San Antonio	34	19	.642	5
New Orleans	27	26	.500	12

## Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	36	17	.679	—
Oklahoma City	28	25	.528	8
Denver	20	33	.377	16
Utah	19	34	.358	17
Minnesota	11	42	.208	25

## Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	42	9	.824	—
L.A. Clippers	35	19	.648	8½
Phoenix	29	25	.537	14½
Sacramento	18	34	.346	24½
L.A. Lakers	13	40	.245	30

## Wednesday's games

Orlando 89, New York 83	
Toronto 95, Washington 93	
San Antonio 104, Detroit 87	
Boston 89, Atlanta 88	
Indiana 106, New Orleans 93	
Oklahoma City 109, Memphis 89	
Milwaukee 111, Sacramento 103	
Golden State 94, Minnesota 91	
Cleveland 113, Miami 93	
Dallas 87, Utah 82	
Portland 102, L.A. Lakers 86	
L.A. Clippers 110, Houston 95	
Thursday's games	
Chicago 113, Cleveland 98	
Friday's games	
No games scheduled	

## Thursday

## Bulls 113, Cavaliers 98

Chicago 113, Cleveland 98	12-25, 5-6, 31
Thompson 5-5, 0-0-10, Mozgov 5-6, 3-6	1-8, Irving 6-18, 4-6, 17, Smith 3-10, 1-1-8
Shumpert 2-6, 0-0-6, Marion 1-0-0-2, Dela	1-0-0-2, Jones 2-8, 3-3, 9, Miller
0-0-0-0, Totals 37-85, 16-22, 98	

CHICAGO — Druwelle 2-7, 0-0-5, Gasol	6-15, 5-15, Noah 10-6, 2-6-10, Rose 12-24
6-6-30, Snell 9-11-0-0-2, Brooks 5-8-3-5, 13	
Mitotic 3-8, 0-0-7, Gibson 3-12, 0-0-8, Mc	2-0-0-0-0-0-0-0, Totals 42-92, 20-26, 113
Cleveland	26 22 29 21-98
Chicago	38 25 32 28-113
Three-point Goals—Cleveland 9-31	
(Shumpert 2-4, Jones 2-8, Marion 2-9, Ir	ving 1-3, Smith 1-5, Delaune 1-0-0-2, 1-0-0-2)
Chicago 9-23 (Snell 4-6, Brooks 2-5, Gasol	4-0, Cousins 1-4, Marion 1-0-0-2, 1-0-0-2)
Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Cleve	land 35 (Mozgov 11), Chicago 25 (Noah 15)
Assists—Cleveland 27 (Irving 7), Chicago	29 (Noah, Rose, 7), Total Fouls—Cleveland 20, Cleveland 20, Technicals—Mozgov, A—21,920 (20,917).

## Leaders

## Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	43	441	229	1451	27.4
James, CLE	45	442	271	1167	25.9
Westbrook, OKC	39	343	283	1007	25.8
Curry, GSW	46	315	210	1124	24.2
Anthony, NYK	40	358	189	966	24.2
Cousins, SAC	40	334	281	1120	23.8
Curry, GSW	51	418	206	1203	23.6
Aldridge, POR	41	384	201	1107	23.6
Griffin, LAC	51	448	245	1149	22.5
Thompson, GOL	50	397	155	1104	22.1
Irving, CLE	52	407	201	1128	21.7
Lillard, POR	44	343	179	928	21.1
Bosh, MIA	44	341	179	928	21.1
Butler, CHI	49	322	202	998	20.4
Gay, SAC	48	338	171	987	20.4
Ellis, DAL	55	428	163	987	19.9
Hayward, UTA	53	252	247	1042	19.7
Davis, ORL	50	427	125	981	19.6
Rose, CHI	43	308	128	814	18.9
Walker, HOU	42	271	157	789	18.8

## FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	243	335	.725
Chandler, DAL	214	313	.684
A. Johnson, TOR	211	306	.689
Plumlee, BRO	210	310	.677
Howard, HOU	202	315	.641
Patricians, TOR	236	342	.692
Zeller, BOS	192	345	.557
Davis, NOR	166	301	.551
Horford, ATL	360	662	.544
Favors, UTA	330	593	.556

## Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Jordan, LAC	54	280	496	745	13.8
Drummond, DET	54	266	427	693	12.8
Cousins, SAC	40	121	377	498	12.4
Gasol, CHI	51	151	468	619	12.1
Randolph, MEM	48	170	357	527	11.0
Chandler, DAL	52	209	407	616	11.8
Uccivici, ORL	50	158	407	565	11.3
Monroe, DET	41	161	361	522	12.7
Love, CLE	52	109	430	539	10.4
Aldridge, POR	47	124	362	486	10.3

## Rose scores 30, Bulls beat Cavs

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Derrick Rose drove hard to the rim and heard those familiar "MVP! MVP!" chants from the crowd. The star point guard was in top form, and so were the Bulls.

Rose scored 30 points, and Chicago handed Cleveland just its second loss in 16 games, beating the Cavaliers 113-98 Thursday night.

Pau Gasol added 18 points and 10 rebounds. Tony Snell scored 22, helping offset a 31-point performance by LeBron James, and the Bulls sent another strong signal that their recent struggles might be behind them.

They won their fourth straight after dropping 10 of 15 and entered the All-Star break with a 1½-game lead in the Central division over the Cavaliers. Leading the way was their former MVP point guard, a player who missed most of the previous two seasons because of injuries to each knee.

"I'm just letting my game come to me," Rose said. "That's all I'm doing. I'm being patient with the ball. ... I'm trying to read the defense and pass the ball to the right people that are open."

Is he happy with the way he's playing?  
"Yes, very pleased," Rose said.

The Bulls led most of the way against the NBA's hottest team and pulled away in the fourth quarter.

Both teams were missing key players, with Chicago's Jimmy Butler nursing a strained right shoulder and Cleveland's Kevin Love out with an abrasion in his right eye. But the Bulls did enough to come out on top.

Rose was aggressive from the start, going right at the rim, and finished two points shy of his season high.

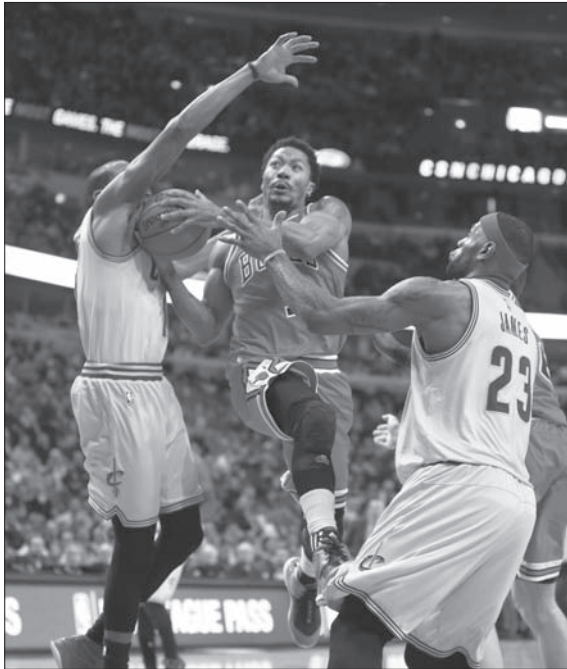
Gasol posted his 14th straight double-double, the longest streak by a Bulls player since Michael Jordan's 15-game run in 1988-89.

Snell came up big again after scoring a career-high 24 against Sacramento on Tuesday. He shot 9-for-11 for the second straight game and helped force eight turnovers by James.

Joakim Noah added 10 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists, and Taj Gibson scored 13.

For Cleveland, it was a lethargic showing coming off a victory over Miami the previous night. Even so, 14 wins in 16 games isn't a bad way to go into the break.

"We can go into the break feeling good about our chances going forward and with the knowledge there are several things we can improve on and do better," coach David Blatt said. "That's a good place to be."



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose, center, drives and scores past Cleveland's James Jones, left, and LeBron James during the second half of Thursday's game in Chicago.

James had little help with Love sidelined after getting accidentally poked in the eye by the Heat's Mario Chalmers, and his high turnover total only made things worse.

"I'll figure it out. That cannot happen, for sure, for us to win long-term," James said.

Kyrie Irving had 17 points and seven assists but was 6-for-18 from the field. Timofey Mozgov added 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Up by seven at halftime, the Bulls scored the first eight points of the third quarter to increase their lead to 63-48.

## Cruise: Cavs may be only just now realizing their potential



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Cleveland forwards LeBron James, left, and Kevin Love joke with each other on the bench during the fourth quarter of the Cavaliers' 110-101 victory over Denver on Dec. 7 in Denver.

## FROM BACK PAGE

been smooth, as evidenced by this week's strange situation when James posted a message on Twitter aimed at teammate Kevin Love, backtracked from his story, and then blamed the media for creating controversy.

But despite any issues with first-year coach David Blatt or Love's uneven transition — he's still averaging 17 points and 10 rebounds — the Cavs are flourishing and they may have only scratched their potential. James insists he won't know the team's true identity until the postseason, when every possession is magnified, and team's flaws are exposed in the back and forth of a seven-game series.

For now, though, there is a calm and confidence about the Cavaliers. Winning will do that. Saddled with extreme expecta-

tions, they're fulfilling them.

Back in July when he announced his homecoming, James warned in an essay that any path to a title would be filled with challenges. He's done this before, which is why James hasn't allowed three months of twists and turns to deter him.

"Everyone wanted overnight success. It's not about that. It's about the process for me. I've always stayed even-keeled," he said. "I understand we have a lot of room to improve and we have to continue to work our habits in a good way."

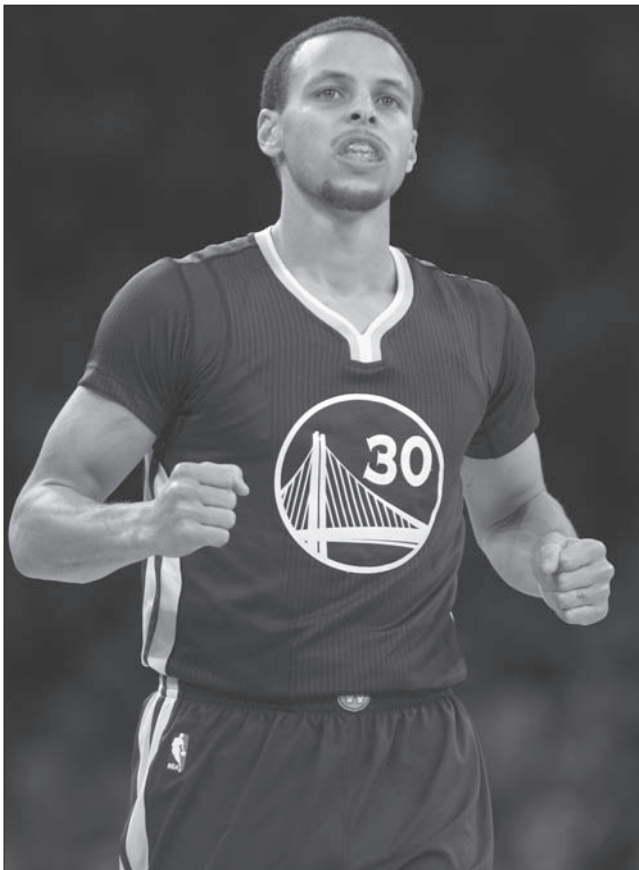
James won't allow this year's extended All-Star breather to interrupt his team's rhythm. In fact, he believes it will only make the Cavaliers better.

"The break will allow me to get healthy," James said, smiling. "We'll be all right."



## NBA

# Warriors' All-Star Curry taking center stage



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry has gone from an All-Star snub in 2013 to the top vote-getter among all NBA players in this season's All-Star balloting. After finishing more than 42,000 votes ahead of LeBron James, Curry's talents will take center stage this weekend, as he will compete in the three-point contest and shooting stars competitions on Saturday before leading the West all-stars on Sunday.



**ONE CITY, TWO ARENAS:** The Friday and Saturday events go to Brooklyn's Barclays Center, while the Knicks' Madison Square Garden hosts the All-Star game Sunday. The teams may be rivals on the court, but Commissioner Adam Silver insists it was easy to get them to share the festivities.

**'I wish there was some smoke filled-room story in Moscow that I could tell you, but in fact both organizations were incredibly cooperative.'**

**Adam Silver**  
NBA commissioner

## League's leading vote-getter has busy weekend ahead in NY

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
The Associated Press

**S**TEPHEN CURRY will take on his teammate and team up with his father, then finally take the floor as the leading vote-getter for the All-Star game.

The Golden State Warriors' guard might be the man of the weekend, and even he can't believe how quickly it's happened after he was an All-Star snub just two years ago.

"I remember where I was the night I didn't hear my name called and thought that was a real possibility," he said. "I was in Chicago sitting in the hotel room watching the announcements and obviously (David) Lee was a representative, so happy for him, but in two short years obviously where it is now, it's unreal."

Curry rebounded from not getting chosen in 2013, when he had the highest scoring average among players not picked, by being a first-time selection last year. He finished more than 42,000 votes ahead of LeBron James to be the top vote-getter this season, and he heads to the break as a leading candidate for the MVP award.

The Warriors have the NBA's best record and will be well-represented on Sunday. Steve Kerr will coach the Western Conference,

and he tabbed Curry's backcourt mate, Klay Thompson, to start in place of the injured Kobe Bryant.

The night before, Curry and Thompson are part of an elite field for the All-Star Saturday three-point contest. Curry will also team up with his father, Dell, a former NBA player, and the WNBA's Sue Bird in the shooting stars competition.

He says there is more pressure to beat his teammate than there is to not lose with his dad.

"The Currys have never won a three-point contest, so I think that's probably the more pressure," he said.

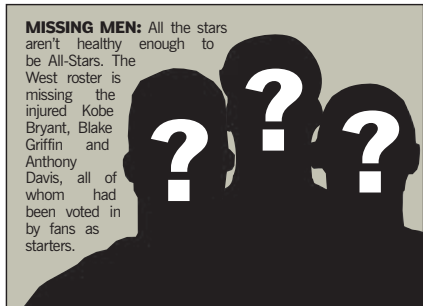
Even if he loses them all, it's a big weekend for Curry. His career-high performance of 54 points in February 2013 came at Madison Square Garden, site of Sunday's game, not long after the last All-Star game that went on without him.

Hard to imagine him missing another one any time soon.

"Just to be on a winning team, best record in the West and have the vision that we have for this team this year," Curry said, "and then all the other stuff that comes from that when it comes to personal accolades and acknowledgements and all that stuff, kind of try to keep it in perspective because it is crazy."

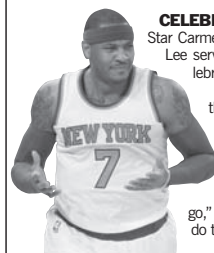
"In two years, that's a lot that's happened."

**MISSING MEN:** All the stars aren't healthy enough to be All-Stars. The West roster is missing the injured Kobe Bryant, Blake Griffin and Anthony Davis, all of whom had been voted in by fans as starters.



**CELEBRITY COACHES:** Knicks All-Star Carmelo Anthony and director Spike Lee served as coaches in Friday's celebrity game.

"All celebrities feel like they think they know how to play basketball. Some (celebrities) are pretty good, so just a matter of putting them out there and throwing the ball out there and telling them to go," Anthony said. "They're going to do their own thing anyway."



## NBA



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Atlanta center Al Horford, left, gives forward Paul Millsap a fist bump after he scored against Golden State on Feb. 6. The Hawks have the best record in the NBA.

# Continuity the buzz word heading into All-Star break

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI  
The Associated Press

**T**he Atlanta Hawks tried to get into the LeBron James sweepstakes last summer, but never really had a chance.

In fact, high-profile free agents for the last couple of years had been giving the Hawks the cold shoulder, forcing them to keep rolling with a roster long on talent but short on star power, and it may be the best thing that ever happened to them.

The Hawks have been the surprise story of the season, racking up an NBA-leading 43 victories as the All-Star break approaches. They've done it largely on the strength of a group of players that have grown together, learned to play with each other and how to complement one another to find a rare bit of stability and continuity in a volatile league.

"Bring back a lot of the guys, add a few guys around the edges, had a great summer, our guys' work ethic, their commitment to each other, to getting better every day from our players has been really, really high," coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Hopefully we can continue that going forward."

The Portland Trail Blazers, Memphis

Grizzlies, Toronto Raptors, Washington Wizards, Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Clippers are among the teams that have eschewed major roster changes for one reason or another and kept their cores together, hoping to follow the San Antonio Spurs' model for success.

The Warriors changed coaches of course, replacing Mark Jackson with Steve Kerr. The Wizards essentially swapped

Trevor Ariza for Paul Pierce and the Grizzlies brought in Jeff Green from the Celtics in a midseason trade. But these teams all have one thing in common — the core talent on their rosters has been largely unchanged for multiple years.

"We've been going through some battles together and just continuing to grow our chemistry and our unity in the locker room," Warriors guard Steph Curry said. "We have a solid core that's been together and it shows in the little things that come out in the course of a game throughout the season.

Obviously with the new coaching staff that was a huge bonus for us to have, along with a couple of key additions, pretty much the same core."

In the NBA, it can be tempting to make wholesale changes when immediate results are not seen. But that strategy does have its pitfalls.



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Atlanta fans cheer their team. The Hawks are winning this year with minimum turnover from last year's team.

In Cleveland, where the Cavaliers brought in James, Kevin Love, Iman Shumpert, J.R. Smith and Timofey Mozgov, the start was a rough one. And even as the Cavs have found their footing with 13 wins in their last 14 games, there continue to be subplots bubbling underneath the surface that point to a lack of trust between teammates that can be expected in the early

stages of partnership.

James saw similar struggles early in his first season with the Miami Heat in 2010, but they righted themselves and made it all the way to the NBA Finals before losing to the Dallas Mavericks. So there is still plenty of time for the Cavs to figure each other out, find that cohesion and get to where they want to be.

But when you begin the long grind of an NBA season with everyone on the same page, it makes it that much easier to navigate the inevitable points in the season where things just aren't clicking.

After losing to the Clippers in the first round last season, the Warriors could have traded for Love to add another All-Star to a talented team. But the Minnesota Timberwolves demanded Klay Thompson be part of the deal, and the Warriors declined.

At the time, many questioned that decision. But Thompson has emerged as a star, and the Warriors' tight-knit locker room has been a key to their surge to the top of the Western Conference this year.

"It's the key to the whole thing," Kerr said. "This team's been really good for two years now, 51 wins last year. The foundation was already set. But what happens in this game, the longer a group is together, the better they become. That made our job as a new staff much easier. The fact that these guys were already good, they were already familiar with one another and they're growing and getting better because of that continuity."

## SPORTS

**18 straight**No. 3 Gonzaga extends streak, hammers Loyola Marymount » **College basketball, Page 28****NBA title**

# Cruise control



## Does LeBron have Cavs on road to championship?

**By TOM WITHERS**  
The Associated Press

**A**S LeBron James dressed following a dominating win over the Miami Heat, the team he fled to return home, he pushed play on the stereo in his corner cubicle and cranked up the volume.

Suddenly, the Cleveland Cavaliers' locker room, still filled with reporters, was alive with thumping music, turning the space into a postgame dance club.

With rapper Lupe Fiasco's "Deliver" providing the beat, James bobbed his head and spit lyrics as if he had written them himself. Cavaliers guard Iman Shumpert, too, began to bounce, and it wasn't long before normally reserved All-Star guard Kyrie Irving showed off a few moves, grooving his way around reporters and toward the door.

As he left, James, Shumpert and J.R. Smith smiled and laughed along with him.

The Cavaliers have found their rhythm after a clumsy start.

Entering the All-Star break with

14 wins in 16 games following a 113-98 loss to the Bulls in Chicago on Thursday, the Cavs, revamped by two trades and James' two-week wellness break, have put a turmoil-filled few months behind them.

They again look like a team capable of winning an NBA title.

They've found harmony on and off the floor, reflected on Wednesday in 32 assists in 44 field goals against the Heat, who could do little about a high-flying Cleveland team that took turns offering up lob passes for dunks.

"It's the team," said James, re-energized by a recent hiatus. "We all care about the team, and we all care about each other right now. We're still growing, obviously. But it's fun basketball when everyone feels in a rhythm. When the ball is moving and popping from one side to the other, that's important to our success."

Nothing has meant more to Cleveland's success than James. The 30-year-old looks refreshed after resting a troublesome back and knee. More im-

portantly, James appears confident that Cleveland's roster, bolstered by the acquisitions of Smith, Shumpert and center 7-foot-1 Timofey Mozgov, a Russian wrecking ball at both ends, can make a run at a championship.

The Cavs are 31-14 with James in the lineup, and just 2-8 without him, an imbalance that perhaps makes the best case why he might win a fifth league MVP award. Following the 113-93 dismantling of the Heat (who played without star Dwyane Wade) Cavs swingman Mike Miller, the team's resident chairman of positive vibes, yelled across the room to point out a TV screen showing James as an MVP candidate.

"I don't know why," James cracked. "I stink."

Hardly. In the 16 games since he returned, James is averaging 27 points on 49 percent shooting. But beyond his always gaudy stats, James is providing leadership to a Cavs team still working through some kinks. It hasn't always

**SEE CRUISE ON PAGE 29**

### Inside:

■ Continuity key when second half of season begins, Page 31

■ Warriors' Curry man of the hour after being All-Star snub 2 years ago, Page 30

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BEY SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

Penguins survive late rally by Senators, win in OT

**NHL, Page 26**

Vonn says she's happy with her performance

**Skiing, Page 25**